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CHAMPIONS

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2026 NBA CHAMPIONS KNICKS
THANK YOU FANS!

CITY OF LOVE

Two million fill Canyon of Heroes for epic Knicks championship party

12-PAGE PARADE SPECIAL

Brian Zak/NY Post

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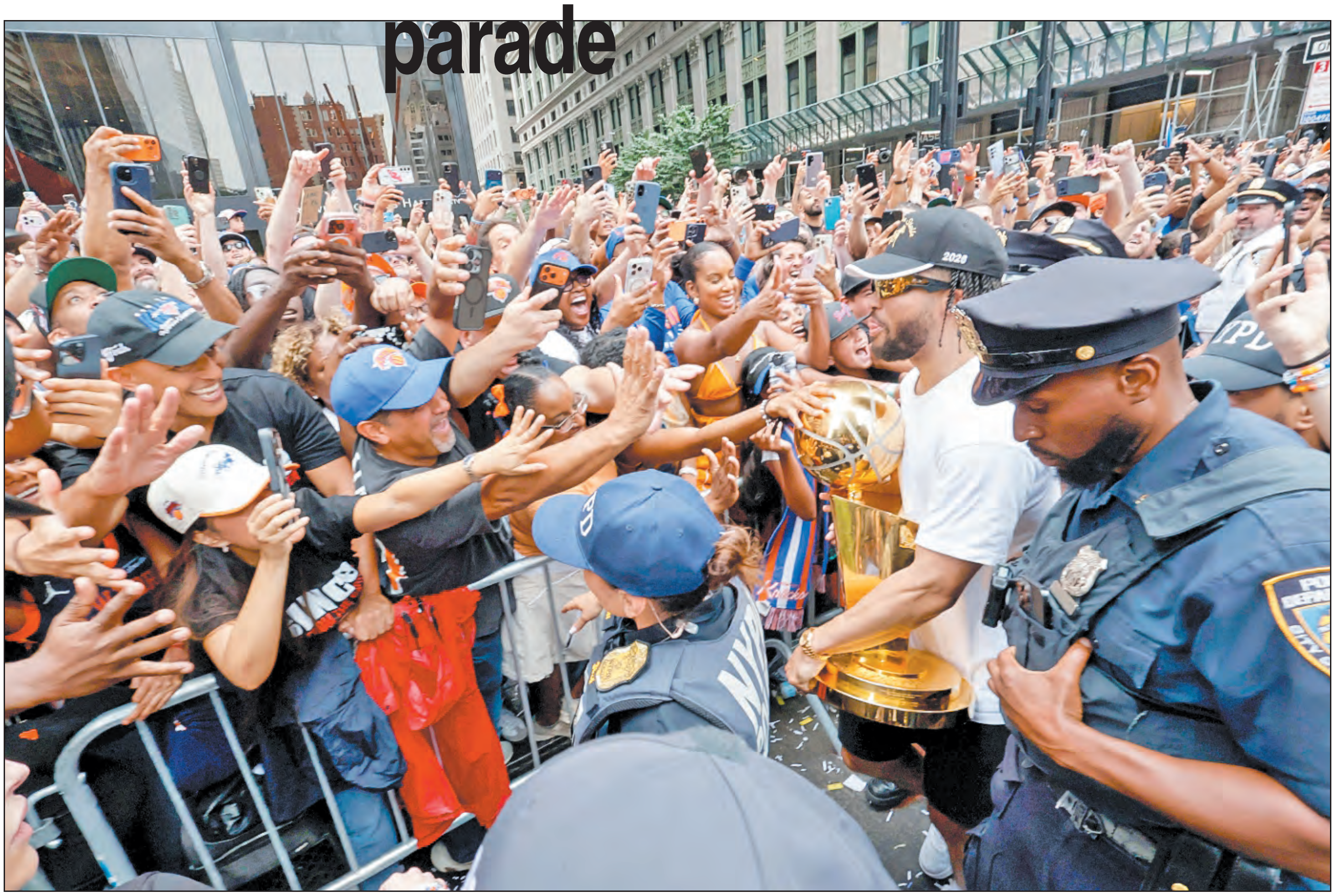
Knicker-bonkers! Massive 2 million fans at parade



AP Hoto/Richard Drew

TOUCH PASS: Knicks playoff MVP Jalen Brunson carries the team's NBA championship trophy past ecstatic parade fans young and old.

ORANG E & BLUE YORK!

By GEORGETT ROBERTS,
STEVEN VAGO, BRANDON
CRUZ and KATHERINE DONLEVY

The Knicks were heralded as royalty Thursday in what is estimated to be one of the largest ticker-tape parades — and biggest parties — in Big Apple history, with rabid fans arriving hours early to catch a glimpse of their champions.

An estimated 2 million fans flooded lower Manhattan, forming a sea of orange and blue that extended blocks beyond the Canyon of Heroes and swelled with unadulterated joy.

“This is Knick City! This is basketball town,” said Al James, of Staten Island, who took the day off from the MTA to participate.

“I never felt the energy like this. I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

The exuberant vibes capped an historic 16-3 Knicks playoff run that included 13 consecutive wins and the five-game trouncing in the Finals of the heavily favored San Antonio Spurs — that included an epic Game 4 comeback from 29 points down.

‘Like Christmas’

Mayor Mamdani teased that the ticker-tape parade could be the biggest in Big Apple history days before, saying 1 million could attend — although turnout was at least double that.

Sean Dolan, 28, of Jersey City, planted himself in the area at 2 a.m., telling The Post the party was “like Christmas.”

“It’s one of the biggest moments of my life, honestly. Just being able to see the team you’ve been rooting for your whole life win, being able to come and celebrate it with those millions and millions of Knicks fans . . . it’s an insane feeling,” Dolan said.

Gabriel Walcott, 18, woke up at 3 a.m. to race to the event from Ronkonkomo, on Long Island, with a Brunson egg-and-cheese in hand, saying he was “willing to do anything” to be a part of the action.

Azaa and Bobby Thorpe drove 10 hours to attend the parade from North Carolina.

“This means the world to me,” said Azaa, 70, with Bobby, 67, adding, “The team won the game but they won it for everybody out here today.”

The crowds were so intense many were turned away from the access points by 7:30 a.m. — less than an hour after fans were admitted i[illegible] th[illegible]ra[illegible]

Hundre[illegible] b[illegible]ke [illegible]oug[illegible]ar[illegible]ricades an[illegible]nte[illegible]st [illegible]er[illegible] to see t[illegible] he[illegible]. [illegible]er[illegible] perched ato[illegible]caffo[illegible]g, [illegible]wa[illegible] entrances, [illegible]et s[illegible] v[illegible]cle[illegible] and the sid[illegible]f bui[illegible] [illegible]ny[illegible]ho[illegible]uld[illegible] squeeze in[illegible]th[illegible]a[illegible]d p[illegible]de areas fl[illegible]ed[illegible]earby [illegible]rs, where [illegible]wa[illegible]he floa[illegible]s on TV.

[illegible]s n[illegible]but pure joy out h[illegible]T[illegible]s[illegible]nce-in-a-lifetime ex[illegible]ie[illegible]” [illegible] K[illegible]dall, who arrived at 6:30 a.m. but was turned away from the parade.

“Today, it doesn’t matter where you’re from, what your politics are. Today, we’re all New Yorkers,” the West Villager said.

The ticker-tape parade concluded at City Hall, where the champions were presented with ceremonial keys to the city.

“This is our team,” Hizzoner said. “For 53 years we watched, for 53 years we waited. Now we’ve won.”

NY Post: Matthew McDermott

‘SEE’ OF PEOPLE

Diehard Knicks fans could not be stopped trying to catch a glimpse of the NBA champs after their first title in more than half a century, desperately climbing scaffolding, fire escapes — and even precarious treetops nearly two stories high.

At least 20 revelers climbed on top of the South Ferry Station — and ignored an MTA worker who pleaded with them to get down as they chanted “KNICKS IN FIVE!”

Hundreds more could be seen climbing balconies, light posts and trees.

Luka Bouras, 15, of Westchester, climbed a tree where he stayed for hours — but instead of Jalen Brunson and Karl-Anthony Towns, all he was able to make out from so far away was “some tall-ass dudes.”

But the NYPD seemed to be letting rowdy Knicks fans slide as long as they didn’t get too disruptive.

Cops told some fans to get off scaffolding, but they were not about to blow up the celebration.

“What am I going to do?” an officer said. “They’re not killing anybody.” *Georgett Roberts*

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NBA Finals

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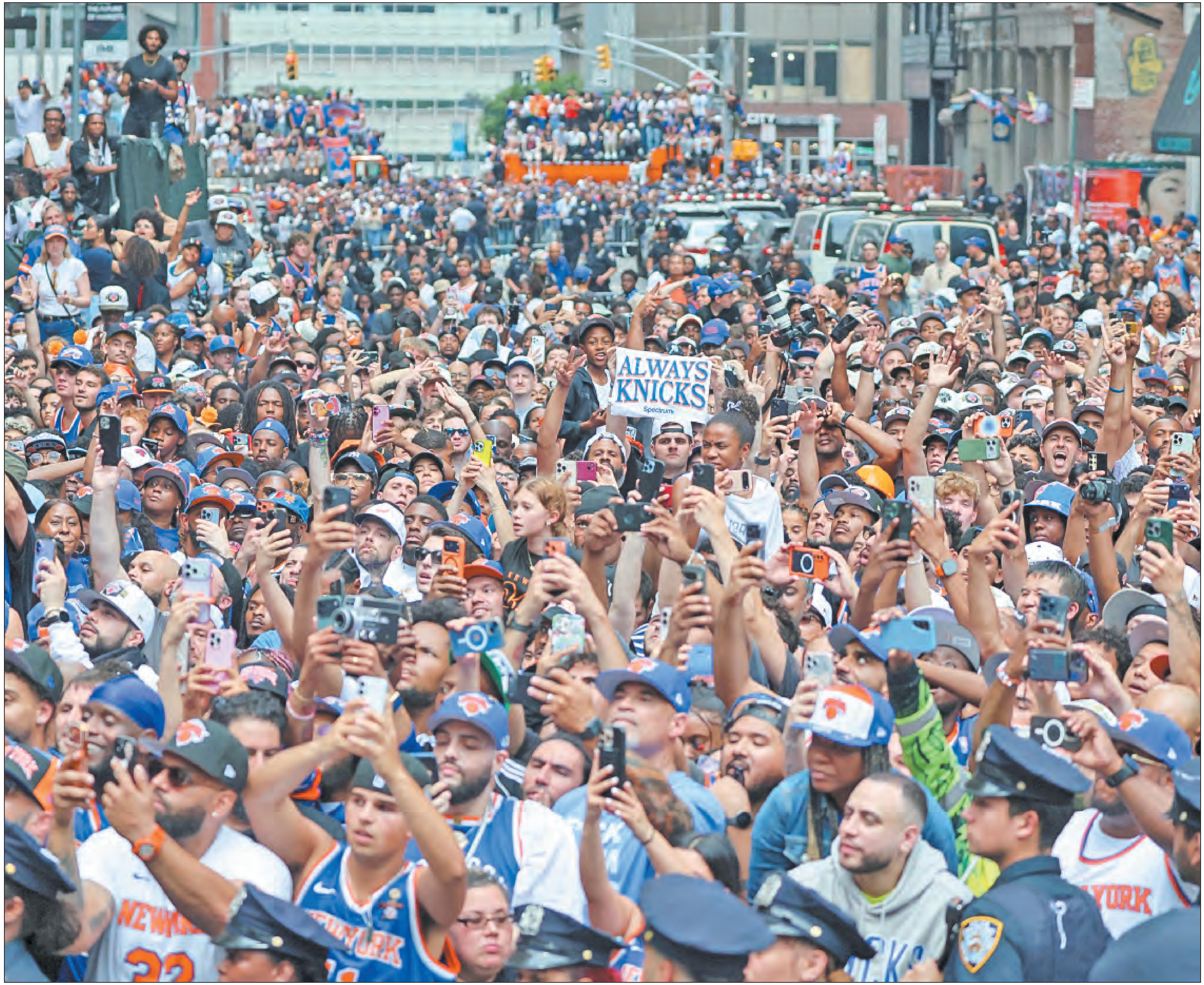
Brian Zak/NY Post

Manhattan *title* wave of fandemonium

Getty Images

Reuters



NY Post: Charles Wenzelberg

Getty Images

BRINGING IT BACK HOME: Knicks fans pack the street and fill the ledges and windows along the Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan — some readying to throw confetti and shredded paper out onto the team's victory parade on Thursday — as the city celebrated its first NBA championship in 53 years.

Reuters

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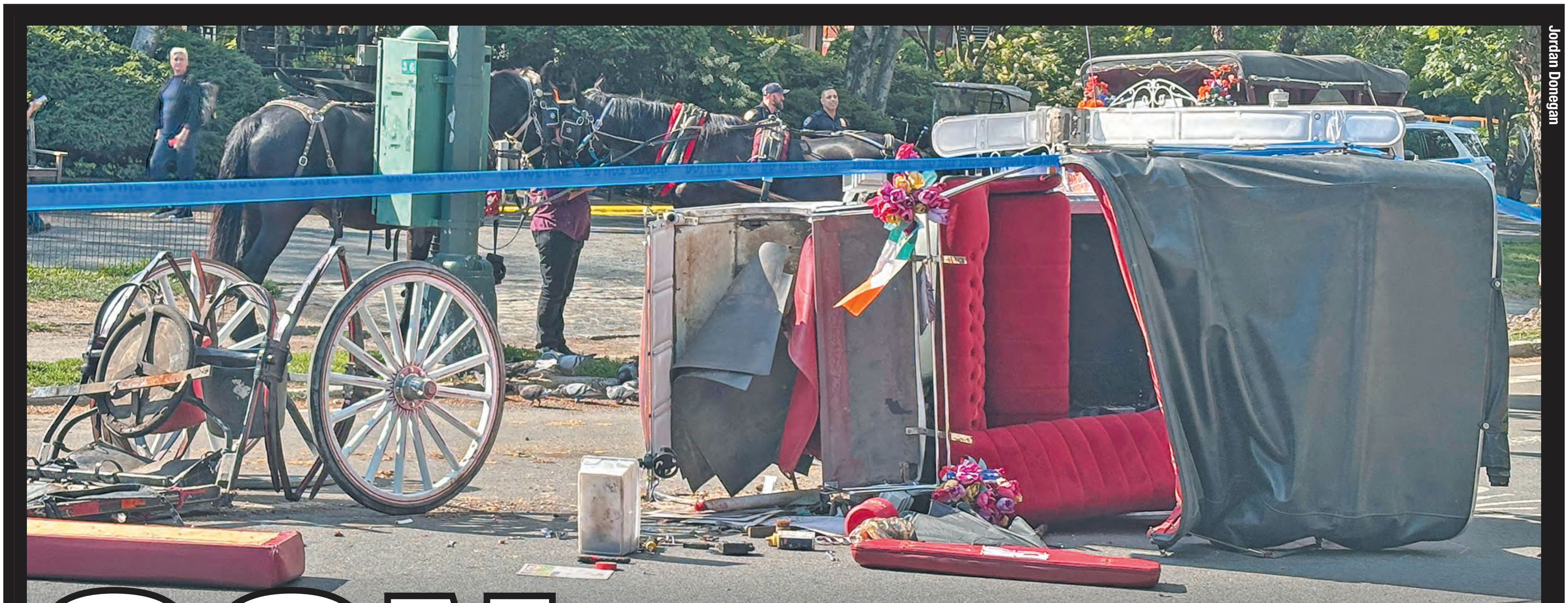
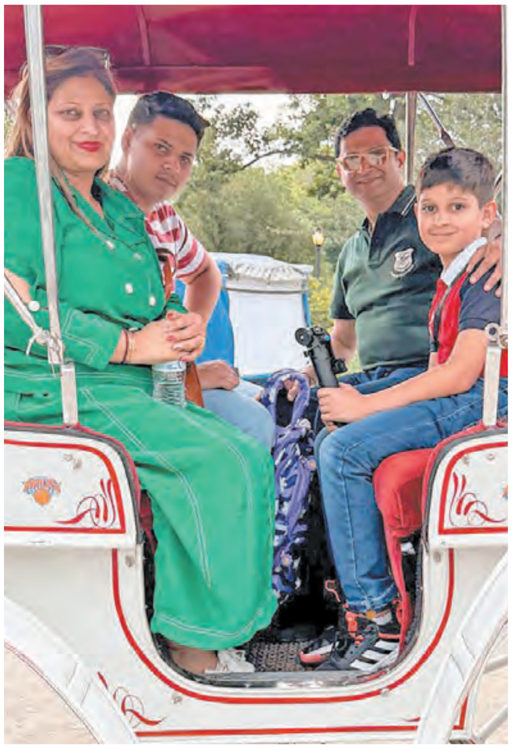


Jordan Donegan

SON DIES A HERO

- Tourist, 18, killed trying to save mom as carriage horse bolted
- More calls to ban Central Park rides



A celebratory family trip to New York from India for the graduation of Romanch Mahajan, 18, turned tragic when the horse pulling their Central Park carriage ran wild. Mahajan tried to save his mom (both pictured above left before the accident) but hit his head and was killed. The mayor and others renewed calls for a ban on horse carriages.

PAGES 4-5

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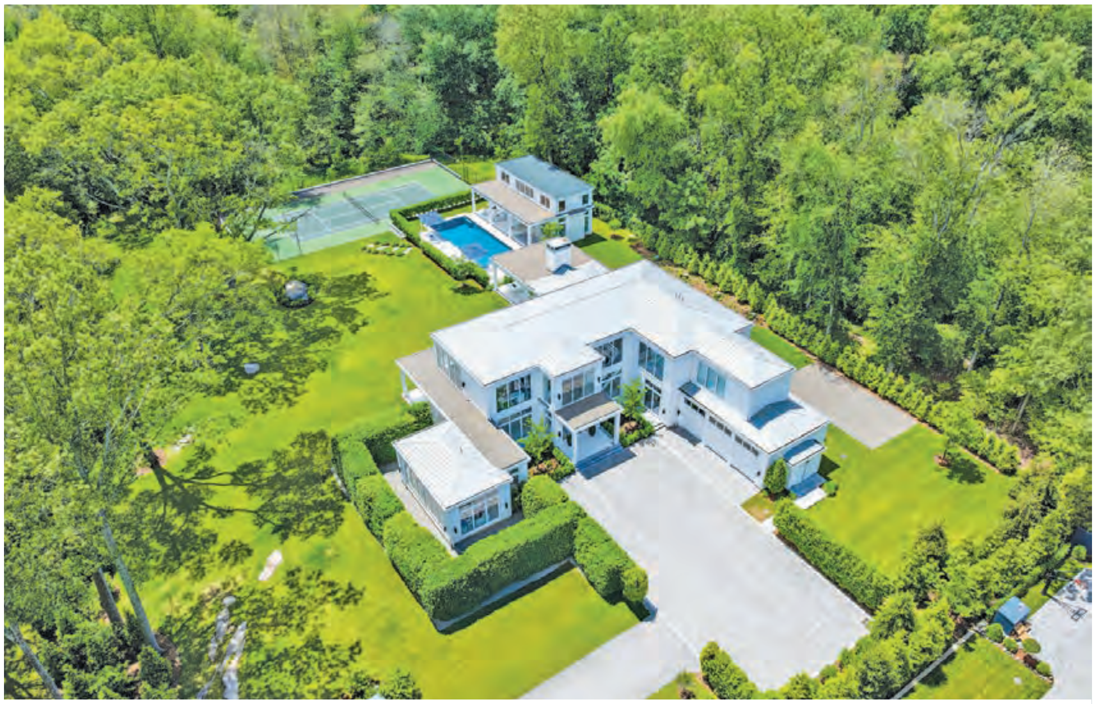

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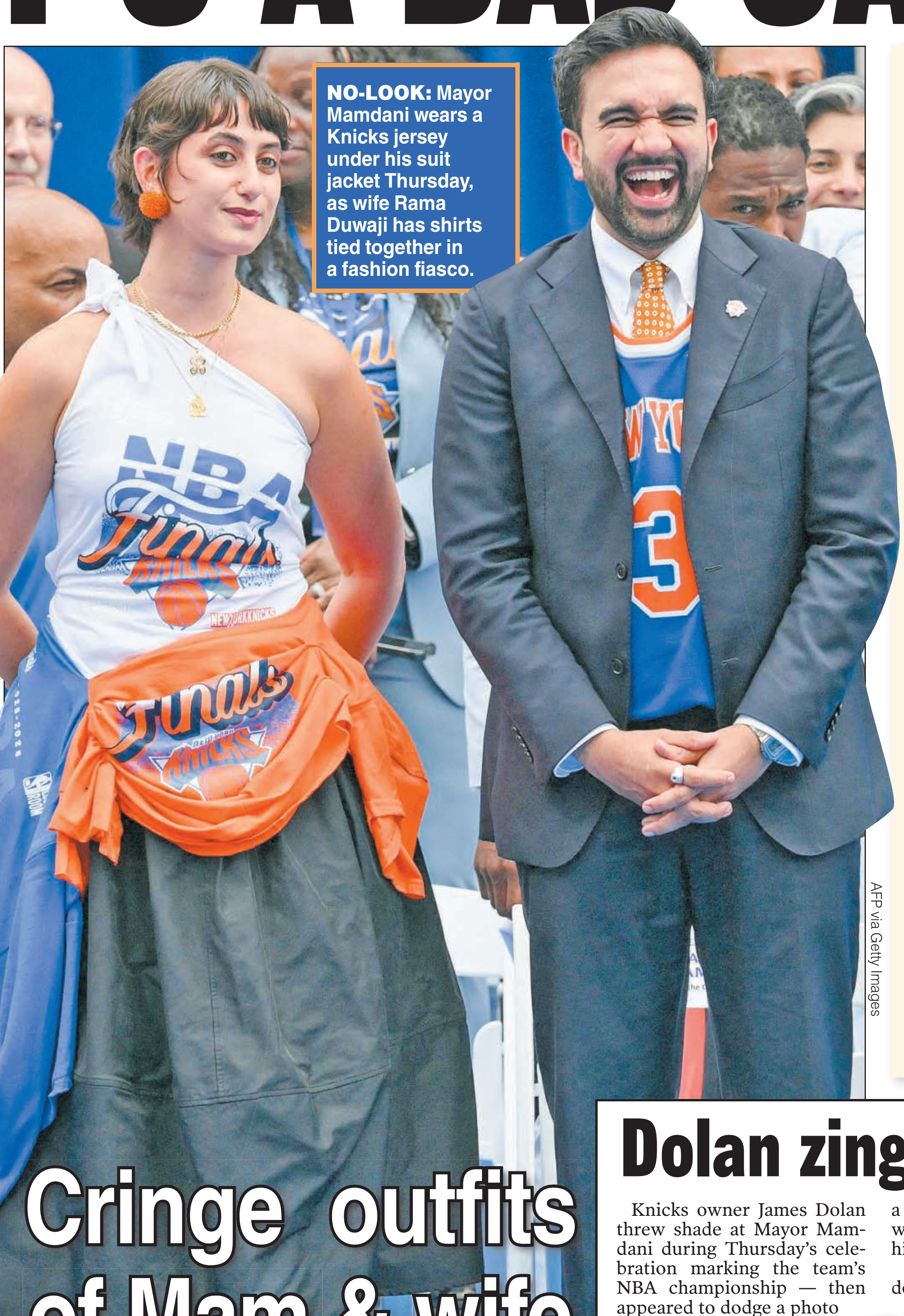
THAT'S A BAD CALL!

Cringe outfits of Mam & wife

By KATHERINE DONLEVY
and NATALIE O'NEILL



NO-LOOK: Mayor Mamdani wears a Knicks jersey under his suit jacket Thursday, as wife Rama Duwaji has shirts tied together in a fashion fiasco.

AFP via Getty Images

It's a fashion airball.

The city's first lady, Rama Duwaji, sported a disheveled dress made from a pile of Knicks T-shirts at the team's historic City Hall party Thursday — dividing critics between "perfection" and "trashy."

The 28-year-old artist wore at least three "NBA Finals" shirts layered over a long black skirt, with two of the tops wrapped around her waist.

Duwaji paired the eyebrow-raising, faux-bohemian look with orange pom-pom earrings.

The first lady — who played a key behind-the-scenes role in the Mamdami campaign's digital strategy and branding — was styled by 2026 CFDA/Vogue Fashion Fund finalist Miss Claire Sullivan.

Who's idea was it?

Sullivan, who has dressed celebrities such as Lady Gaga, told Vogue that the outfit channeled the "DIY spirit of downtown New York."

The shirts were sourced from street vendors last week, she told the magazine.

Her fashion matched that of her husband, who wore a Josh Hart jersey beneath his jacket — but awkwardly over his shirt and tie.

"That's a clever, fun look!" wrote one online commentator. "Repurposed Knicks tees into couture for the parade — peak NYC energy."

But others were less kind. "Is this the way the NYC First Lady should dress to represent NYC?" one said. "Trashy."

New York City's first lady is known for her unconventional style choices.

She sparked controversy in January when she wore a pair of $630 "artisan" leather boots from the high-end designer Mista to her democratic socialist husband's mayoral swearing-in ceremony.

Critics at the time said the luxury look, which was on loan from the company, flew in the face of the politician's "everyman" image and called it "tasteless."

Duwaji has caught heat for alarming social-media posts in which she praised Palestinian terrorists and bashed Israel in her teens and early 20s.

In April, she expressed regret for the "hurt" caused by the posts she had made on X and Tumblr but failed to directly apologize for the posts.

katherine.donlevy@nypost.com

Zo talks a *biiiiig* game

Mayor Mamdani soaked up the spotlight during the Knicks' tribute at City Hall Thursday — droning on for more than eight minutes after partying with the NBA champions on a parade float.

Hizzoner was front and center as the hometown team's first-ever ticker-tape parade made its way up Broadway, hanging around Knicks stars including Karl-Anthony Towns and OG Anunoby on a float, along with Gov. Hochul.

The self-proclaimed diehard Knicks fan mayor even posed with the lucky orange purse owned by Towns' fiancée, Jordyn Woods.

"The Knicks did not just win for New York City, they won like New York City," Mamdani later told the crowd at City Hall Plaza.

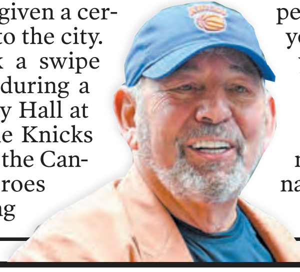
"What is New York if not your back up against the wall, a dream that feels just out of reach, a rent payment that you don't know how you're going to make?"

The democratic socialist went on for eight minutes and 19 seconds — more than twice as long as any other speaker and more than a third of time allotted for speeches. *Craig McCarthy*

Dolan zings mayor

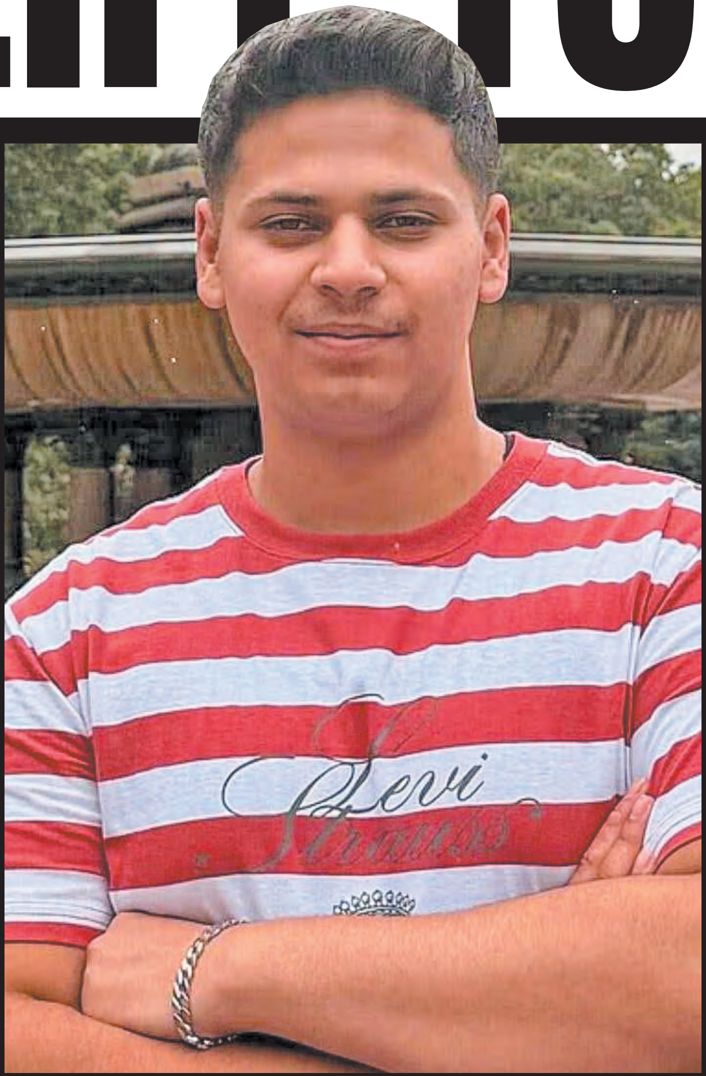
Knicks owner James Dolan threw shade at Mayor Mamdani during Thursday's celebration marking the team's NBA championship — then appeared to dodge a photo op as he was given a ceremonial key to the city.

Dolan took a swipe at Mamdani during a speech at City Hall at the end of the Knicks parade down the Canyon of Heroes and following a speech from Mamdani where he recapped the team's highlights.



"I don't need your vote, I don't need to quote to you, right, about what happened here because if you're real Knicks fans, you know it already," Dolan (inset) said in a mic-drop moment, though he didn't mention the mayor by name. *Craig McCarthy and David Propper*

GAVE HIS LIFE TO



Fallout over tragic teen buggy victim

By ANTHONY BLAIR
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

He died a hero.

A teen tourist who was tragically thrown to his death from a Central Park horse carriage was reportedly trying to save his mother's life after the animal bolted.

Romanch Mahajan, 18, a tourist from India, was taking in the Big Apple sites with his family when they booked an iconic horse-and-buggy ride and the spooked beast took off in a deadly, caught-on-video mishap.

"We were yelling, 'Help me! Help me!' " the teen's father, Deepak Mahajan, told the New York Times.

His wife, Priya, then fell from the carriage and Romanch jumped down to try to help her, the grieving dad told the outlet.

"My son, just to save his mother, he fell off," Deepak Mahajan said. "He was screaming, 'Mom!' " Mahajan fell on the ground and struck his head. He was rushed to NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he was later pronounced dead.

Driver taking photos

He died of blunt force trauma in what the city medical examiner has ruled an accidental death.

The carriage driver had gotten out to take a picture of the family when the horse bolted onto the sidewalk and accelerated onto the grass.

Dramatic video footage shows the driver desperately chasing after the runaway carriage before the teen is thrown to the ground and the buggy crashes to the ground.

The incident is now under investigation, with the carriage driver's union saying its members are never allowed to leave the carriage.

"It appears the driver was at least at arm's length from his horse. This is unacceptable," Alexander Kemp, a vice president at Transport Workers Union Local 100, said in a statement. "A driver is not supposed to leave the carriage to take photos — ever. We support a full investigation."

The union said the driver has been suspended, and the 7-year-old horse, Sampson, was retired from service.

All carriage rides in Central Park were also suspended, the union announced Thursday.

When reached at his Queens home, driver Ertan Gokdepe declined to comment, but a shop steward from the union who was with him spoke up on his behalf, saying: "He's absolutely devastated."

"He's been driving a carriage for 20 years. Nothing like this has ever happened to him. Nothing like this has ever happened to our industry. So it's just awful," the rep said.

The driver also worried that opponents of carriage horses will come after him. "He's worried about his family," the rep said.

Ryder's Law, a bill to phase out horse carriages, was reintroduced to the City Council last week. The law is named after a carriage horse named Ryder, who collapsed while working on a hot August day in 2022. The City Council's health panel refused to advance Ryder's Law out of committee in November, despite support from equine activists and

New calls for NYC ban

Deaths revive bill

By CARL CAMPANILE

A horse-carriage ban is gaining steam in the City Council following the freak accident that killed an 18-year-old Indian tourist in Central Park this week.

"Is it the straw that broke the camel's back? I think so," said Councilman Frank Morano, a Staten Island Republican and co-sponsor of "Ryder's Law," which would outlaw horse carriages in New York City.

"We have an 18-year-old boy who came here to celebrate his graduation who is leaving in a coffin. It's totally unacceptable," Morano told The Post on Thursday.

Past bans failed

Mayor Mamdani has said he supports outlawing carriage rides in Central Park, a pledge he made on the campaign trail.

Mamdani's predecessors Eric Adams and Bill de Blasio also supported a horse-carriage ban, though it never happened during their tenures.

Opponents — including the union representing carriage drivers — said they've heard the clamor in years past following accidents or deaths involving carriage horses, only to see legislation stall when controversy subsided because the record shows the animals are well treated.

But the new Council has expressed more of an interest in animal rights, recently creating an animal-welfare caucus that includes 20 of the legislative body's 51 members, including Morano.

Council Speaker Julie Menin has ordered a hearing next month on Morano's bill, named after Ryder, a Central Park carriage horse who collapsed while working on a hot August day in 2022. The bill stalled in committee last year.

"In the past two weeks alone, we have seen the tragic deaths of both a horse and now a teenage carriage passenger," Menin said, referring to the June 9 incident in which a carriage horse named Deniz collapsed and died in Central Park, likely from consuming a toxic plant.

New Council interest

Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks, a Staten Island Democrat, said, "Something has to change . . . We have to take an honest and sobering look at the horse-carriage industry."

But Queens Democratic Councilman James Gennaro argued the "unthinkable tragedy" was caused by "human error," not animal abuse.

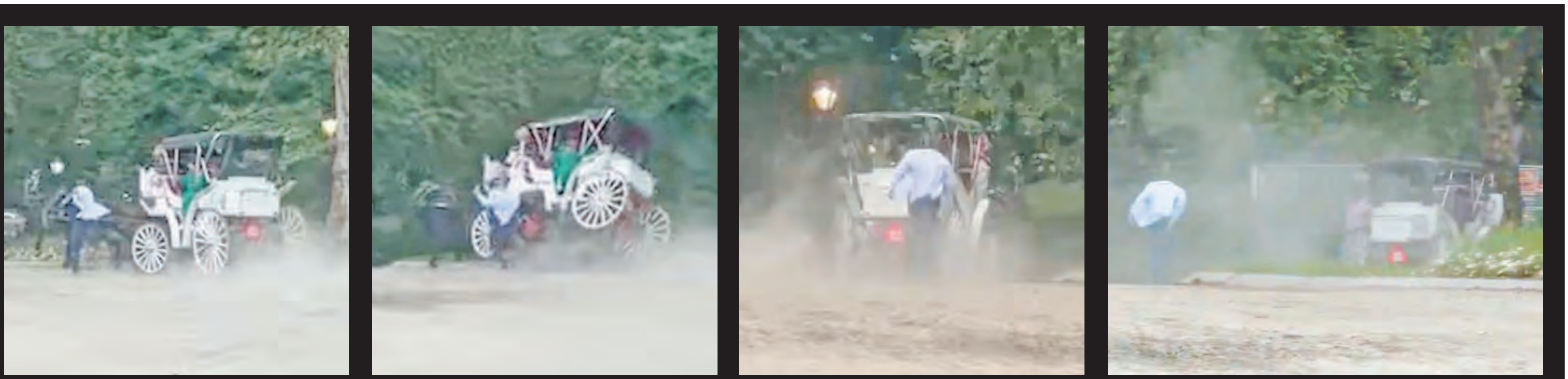
He opposes a ban but supports tougher driver training and safety measures, including installing hitching posts in Central Park to secure horses if passengers get out or take pictures.

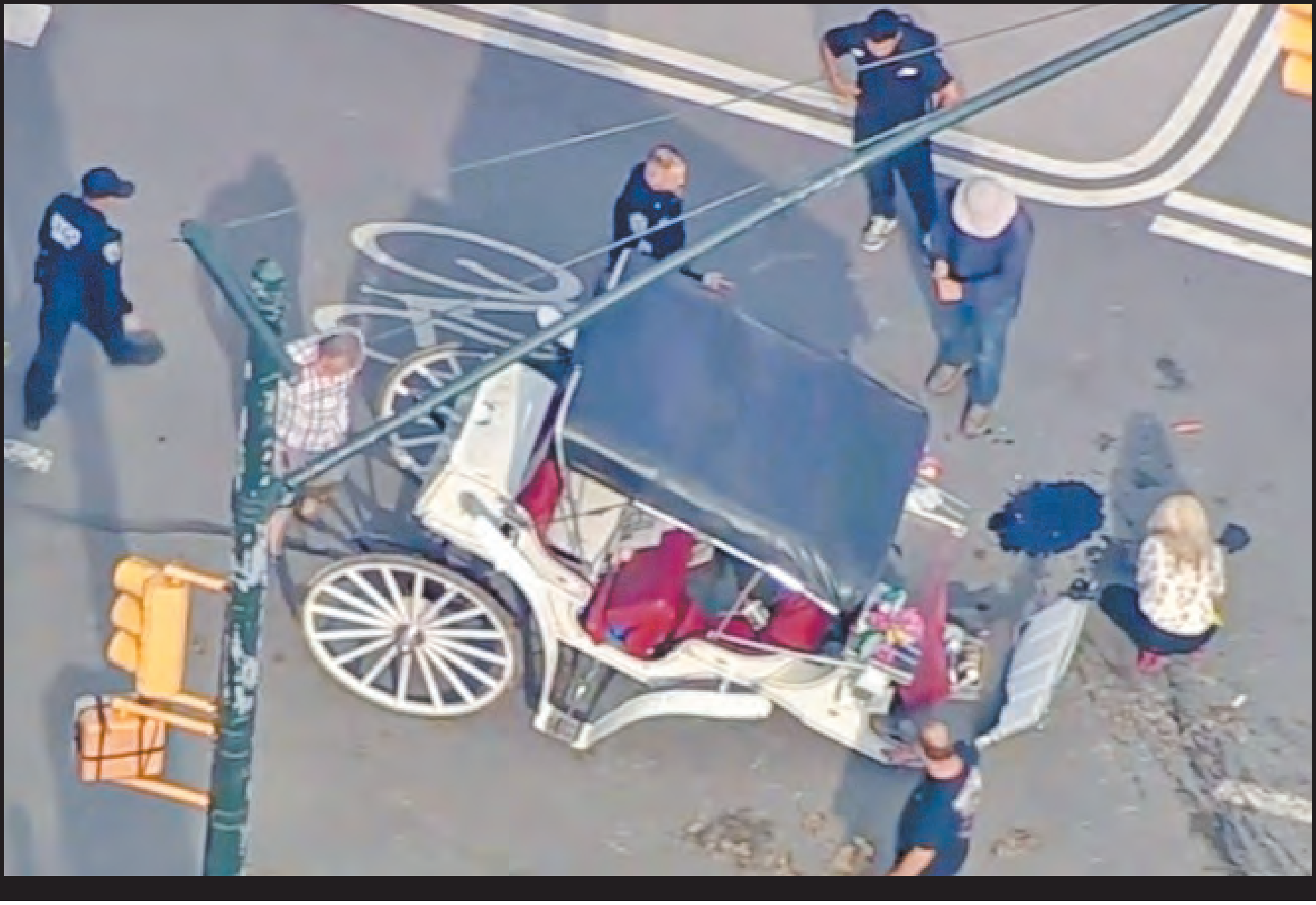
But the carriage horse industry is clearly on the defensive.

"We're absolutely gutted and stunned by this tragedy. We've never had a fatal accident like this before," said Alexander Kemp, of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union which advocates for carriage riders.

"We have shuttered the stables and ceased operations today while we have extensive internal discussions of safety protocols and how they can be improved."

SAVE HIS MOM'S





HORROR: Romanch Mahajan (far left), 18, died from injuries sustained protecting his mother when a horse ran and crashed their buggy in Central Park. Driver Ertan Gokdepe, at home Thursday (below), was taking their pic and not minding the horse.

facebook; WNYW; Brigitte Stelzer

former Mayor Eric Adams.

Hours before he left office, Adams signed an executive order mandating that the fleet of horse-carriage drivers undergo regular veterinary inspections and be tested for drugs and injuries.

The move came weeks after city-hired veterinarian Dr. Kraig Kulikowski attempted to conduct "independent" testing on a sampling of a dozen carriage horses across three stables but was thwarted. All 12 horses' carriage owners refused "standard" follow-up tests such as trotting to evaluate possible lameness and blood testing for drugs such as painkillers, The Post previously reported.

Mayor Mamdani, who was sworn into office in January, had expressed earlier support for the ban on the Central Park carriages, telling reporters, "I plan to deliver on that."

However, his administration has not followed through.

Manhattan Councilman Christopher Marte, a fierce opponent of horse-drawn carriages, issued a scathing statement after Wednesdays fatal accident.

Rallying cry for foes

"Enough is enough," Marte said. "This is yet another serious and terrifying incident involving a carriage horse in Central Park, and it should make clear to everyone that delay is no longer defensible."

The horse-carriage death comes about a week after a carriage horse named Deniz collapsed and died in Central Park, likely from consuming a toxic plant.

Deniz keeled over at Strawberry Fields at 7:30 p.m. June 9.

The horse's death, described by onlookers as "agonizing," occurred shortly after the animal began thrashing on the ground.

Only weeks before Deniz's death, a coachman was injured when a spooked carriage horse charged into another horse-drawn carriage and caused it to overturn in Central Park.

Wednesday's incident prompted a curt statement from PETA.

"From collapsing horses to careening carriages, how many more disasters have to strike before we get these beleaguered horses out of the park?" a spokesperson for the animal rights group said.

Additional reporting by Reuven Fenton

Surely, you gestate

> “As a mother and grandmother, you should understand the unique and indispensable role mothers play in our families.”
>
> —*A Republican letter to Gov. Hochul*

WOKE, NO JOKE: Gov. Hochul backs a bill to replace “mother” and ‘father” with “gestating” and “non-gestating parent” in family court cases. Republicans are fighting the change.

Gov: OK, nix ‘mom’ and ‘dad’

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

It’s not Non-Gestating Parent’s Day!

Republican state lawmakers pushed Gov. Hochul to take a stand ahead of Father’s Day to veto a woke bill that would erase “mother” and “father” from child custody and parental laws.

Hochul’s fellow Democrats passed the gender-neutral measure that would replace “mother” with “gestating parent” and “father” with “non-gestating parent” or “parent” in family court and domestic and education law — and she’s signaled she’ll sign it into law.

But Republicans in the Legislature’s minority said in a letter obtained by The Post that Hochul should stand up against the “virtue signaling.”

“To even consider replacing the term ‘father’ with ‘non-gestating parent’ diminishes the role that so many fathers play in their children’s lives,” said the letter, signed by state Sens. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick (R-Nassau County), Bill Weber (R-Rockland County) and Alexis Weik (R-Suffolk County).

‘Core’ of the family

“The first word out of a child’s mouth is often ‘mom’ or ‘dad,’ ” the senators told Hochul. “As a mother and grandmother, you should understand the unique and indispensable role mothers play in our families and communities.

“They are women who work and provide for their children, and they are the core of any family,” the senators added. “Relegating mothers to the term ‘gestating parent’ is extremely offensive and dehumanizing and serves no purpose beyond virtue signaling.”

Hochul’s office dismissed criticisms as “bulls--t,” though some Democrats voted against the measure in the Legislature.

“Mothers are mothers and fathers are fathers. No legislation changes that,” her office wrote in a post on X earlier this month. “As usual, Republicans are trying to hide from their disastrous policies by manufacturing bulls--t.”

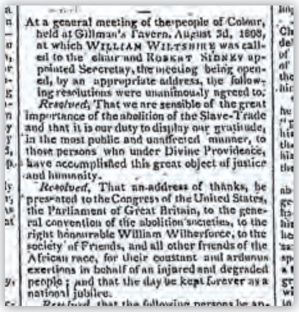
She has until the end of the year to sign or veto the bill.

The bill’s sponsors, state Sen. Luis Sepulveda (D-Bronx) and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Westchester) said the bill is necessary to clarify parts of family court law dealing with surrogacy situations in cases of same-sex marriages, but critics have noted it could have been tweaked without erasing “father” and “mother” from the record.

“By adjusting language in the law, not only it is possible to make it more inclusive, but it also determines the utilization of a term which encompasses a broader concept of parental care — not one strictly related to ‘fatherhood,’ ” the Republicans said in the letter.

The bill would also rebrand proceedings to determine a biological dad from “paternity” to “parentage proceedings” while “putative fathers” aka deadbeat dads would now be “an alleged parent.”

The measure was rammed through Albany at the end of the legislative session in May with little discussion.



At a general meeting of the people of Colour, held at Gillman’s Tavern, August 3d, 1808, at which WILLIAM WILTSHIRE was called to the chair and ROBERT SIDNEY appointed Secretary, the meeting being opened, by an appropriate address, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to;

Resolved, That we are sensible of the great importance of the abolition of the Slave-Trade and that it is our duty to display our gratitude, in the most public and unaffected manner, to those persons who under Divine Providence, have accomplished this great object of justice and humanity.

Resolved, That an address of thanks, be presented to the Congress of the United States, the Parliament of Great Britain, to the general convention of the abolition societies, to the right honourable William Wilberforce, to the society of Friends, and all other friends of the African race, for their constant and arduous exertions in behalf of an injured and degraded people; and that the day be kept forever as a national jubilee.

Slave trade banned

The Post is counting down to America’s 250th birthday with a look back at the nation’s — and the paper’s — history. Every day leading up to the big event on July 4, we’re publishing notable covers and stories from our archives:

Aug. 5, 1808: Celebrating the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The act prohibiting the importing of slaves was signed by President Thomas Jefferson in March 1807, but took effect on Jan. 1, 1808. People gathered at Gillman’s Tavern in New Hampshire to honor the “great importance of the abolition of the slave-trade,” The Evening Post reported in August of that year.

Happy 250th, USA!

“It is our duty to display our gratitude . . . to those persons who under Divine Providence have accomplished this great object of justice and humanity,” the meeting report said.

The group assembled went on to thank Congress as well as Great Britain’s Parliament, which also spearheaded the movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. Just over a decade later, in 1817, New York voted to abolish slavery, but the law didn’t take effect until 1827. *Angela Barbuti*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
- Midday Nos. Thu.: **085**
- Midday Win-4 Thu.: **0669**
- Midday Take-5 Thu.: **4, 6, 34, 35, 38**
- Evening Nos. Thu.: **335**
- Evening Win-4 Thu.: **0599**
- Evening Take-5 Thu.: **3, 5, 32, 35, 37**
- Pick-10 Thu.: **3, 6, 10, 15, 16, 24, 28, 35, 39, 41, 42, 45, 56, 60, 61, 69, 72, 74, 75, 76**
- Millionaire for Life Thu.: **15, 17, 32, 53, 58**; MB: **5**

NEW JERSEY
- Pick-3 Thu.: **594;** Fireball: **8**
- Pick-4 Thu.: **5393;** Fireball: **8**
- Cash-5 Xtra Thu.: **19, 22, 23, 27, 30;** Xtra: **4**
- Pick-6 Thu.: **5, 6, 29, 32, 36, 46;** DP: **8, 14, 20, 21, 22, 33**

CONNECTICUT
- Play-3 Thu.: **196;** Wild: **6**
- Play-4 Thu.: **7777;** Wild: **0**
- Cash-5 Thu.: **7, 8, 11, 22, 24**

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Adria's 'Super' reveal?

Adria Arjona turns heads at the London premiere of "Supergirl" Thursday — not just because of her stunning red gown — as DCU fans wondered if she's secretly in the movie. Arjona is dating Jason Momoa, who plays the anti-hero in the flick out June 26.

David Fisher/Shutterstock

The White 'kraut' House diet

Trump's Cabinet is going all out for kraut.

Spearheaded by Dr. Sean O'Mara, the diet du jour for the current administration is akin to the carnivore diet in that it leans heavily on animals protein, but it's bolstered — and sulfured — by sauerkraut and other gut-boosting, flatulence-inducing staples.

Lured by the promise of weight loss and glowing skin, the kraut-devout club includes Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Vice President JD Vance, according to The Wall Street Journal.

O'Mara claims his signature diet — which requires users to abstain from sugar and alcohol while eating heaps of red meat and fermented foods — aids digestion, boosts the gut microbiome and reduces visceral fat, the deep fat that wraps around your internal organs.

Sauerkraut, in particular, has become a trendy food for gut health because the fermentation process produces several byproducts that are "hugely beneficial" for your health. That fermentation also gives it its signature pungent smell — and can make your body produce its own pungent gas.

Other food staples include eggs, pickles and berries. For snacking, O'Mara encourages eating "Old World cheese," including Gorgonzola and Parmesan.

As one of the physicians assigned to assist the White House during the second Bush administration, O'Mara has long advised politicians on the importance of what is on their plate.

Now in private practice, O'Mara's direct consulting services are priced at $18,000, while his "optimization plans" start at $8,000. *Reda Wigle*

STILL BIG DREAMS AT '250'

But Dems giving up

By ANTHONY BLAIR

More than three-quarters of Americans say they still believe the American Dream is worth striving for ahead of the 250th anniversary, but many Democrats are starting to give up, according to a new survey.

In total, 78% of those surveyed believe it is important to strive for the American Dream — the same figure as in 2024, according to the Gallup American Dream Study, whose results were published Thursday.

More than two-thirds (69%) of those surveyed believe they will personally achieve the American Dream, a slight drop of 3 percentage points since 2024.

However, the study found that less than half (46%) of respondents believe everyone has the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, down from 51% in 2024.

A total of 60% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans said the dream was "unfinished," while Reps, Dems, and Independents alike all called government reform the number one priorty to ensure future generations can achieve the American Dream.

A third of Democrats (33%) said the American Dream had failed, while 31% of Republicans said it has succeeded.

Just 11% of Republicans and about one-quarter of Republicans believe the American Dream had failed.

Immigrants were far more bullish about the American Dream, with adults born outside the US more likely than their American-born counterparts to be optimistic about their future.

More than three quarters (77%) of those born abroad versus 66% of US-born respondents said people can get ahead by working hard.

An almost-identical split of foreign-born vs US-born respondents (75% to 66%) felt they could achieve a better life than their parents' generation.

When asked what came to mind when they think of the American Dream, responses highlighted a shift in recent years from the importance of pure material wealth to foundational stability and rights.

Stability's the dream

"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" topped the survey as the most important concept of the American Dream, according to the study, created by the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream.

More than half (51%) of foreign-born respondents felt optimistic about the future of the American Dream, 9 percentage points more than their counterparts born in the US.

The study also found that those born outside the US overwhelmingly view the American Dream as an "opportunity," with 72% stating that as the term that most came to mind.

For native-born Americans, the American Dream was mostly viewed through the lens of seeking stability, with 53% stating that as their priority.

Disney to restore NOLA station

Disneyland has reportedly been granted a permit to reconstruct a beloved, historic piece of New Orleans Square that was scorched by a fire more than three years ago.

The path has now been cleared for the theme park to resurrect the New Orleans Square train station "radio house" as a 357-square-foot structure.

The original building caught on fire during a busy holiday season in December 2022.

The train station is based on a set from the 1948 Disney film "So Dear To My Heart." *Bianca Zalben*

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

60-DAY CLOCK

Iran ‘honoring’ deal, but real test starts now: JD

By STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — Vice President JD Vance said Thursday that Iran was “honoring” the terms of its preliminary peace deal with Washington — before declaring a 60-day window to hash out a final agreement had opened.

Vance touted swift economic relief as he tried to stem a revolt by congressional Republicans fearful that the vague terms of the 14-point memorandum of understanding (MOU) would strengthen rather than hamstring the anti-American theocracy.

“Last night, 12.5 million barrels of oil [went] into the Strait of Hormuz. That is a high since the beginning of the conflict,” Vance told reporters at the White House.

“Gas prices dropped below $4 a gallon today for the first time since the conflict, and importantly, they’re going to keep falling further, given how low oil prices are.”

Vance basked in the endorsement of anti-war Pope Leo XIV — exclaiming, “Praise Jesus!” — and the backing of Iran hawk Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) for the deal “now that he understands it better.”

He also gave a stern warning to critical Israeli officials not to alienate their “only” ally by undermining the pact.

“On the military side, the Iranians, for the second night in a row, did not shoot at any ships in the Strait of Hormuz, so far they are honoring their end of the commitment,” the vice president said.

Critics wary

“On the blockade, CENTCOM allowed north of a dozen ships to go through our naval blockade, and so we’re also honoring our end of the early part of the agreement.”

Vance stepped behind the White House briefing room lectern to serve as the agreement’s top salesman after Trump put him in charge of talks with Iranian officials, aided by special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Opponents of the deal — who view it as too soft on Iran — are attempting to pin blame for any negative outcomes on Vance, which could derail his anticipated 2028 presidential campaign.

The trek to Switzerland was already in flux, the veep had previously admitted, as his team worked to iron out the logistics and figure out whether or not the Iranians would participate.

Although some advocates of the war, such as Graham, support the MOU, opposition continued to grow Thursday in the Senate, which may need to ratify the final product.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) ripped the agreement as poised to “make Iran’s payoff under President Obama’s 2015 deal look like a pittance.”

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, meanwhile, released his first statement confirming that he gave President Masoud Pezeshkian permission to sign the MOU, but warning that his nation would not “submit” to “excessive demands.

Khamenei said Trump “used all kinds of leverage to bring this about” out of “desperation” — but that “in-person negotiations that will take place in the future will not mean acceptance of the enemy’s position.”

Vance admitted the next steps remain cloudy.

His office said he did not head to Switzerland

Vance blasts Israeli critics of pact

Vice President JD Vance ripped Israeli officials who don’t support the US-Iran deal, warning the US is their “only” ally left.

The US-Iran memorandum of understanding signed by President Trump requires Israel to stop striking Hezbollah in Lebanon — though Israel’s troops remain in the country.

Vance told reporters in the White House briefing room Thursday that Israeli cabinet members had, in some cases, “very personally attacked the president of the United States.”

“If I was in the cabinet of the Israeli government, I might not be attacking the only powerful ally that I have anywhere left in the entire world,” he said.

“Donald J. Trump is the only head of state in the entire world who is sympathetic to the nation of Israel at this moment in time, and he happens to be the head of state of the world’s superpower.

“Over the last three months, two-thirds of the defensive weapons that have protected [their] homeland have been built by American hands and paid for by American tax dollars,” he said. *Caitlin Doornbos*

TICKING

SO FAR, SO GOOD: Vice President JD Vance (bottom) said Iran is "honoring" its end of the deal after its president, Masoud Pezeshkian (below), and President Trump signed the MOU on Wednesday.

Thursday evening for the first round of planned technical nuclear talks with Iran.

Next move?

"Our plan is to go to Switzerland. I don't know exactly when. The way that we're setting up this technical negotiation is that obviously you're going to have the political leadership [of Iran] involved," he said.

The MOU commits the US to unfreeze more than $100 billion in Iranian funds, lift oil sanctions with estimated proceeds of $60 billion annually and bless a $300 billion Gulf Arab pool to rebuild the war-ravaged nation.

The VP claimed the Iranians must take "meaningful steps," such as the destruction of deeply buried highly enriched uranium, to allow for the unlocking of money.

To critics of the deal, Vance argued that the war accomplished its primary aims of blocking Iran's path to a nuclear weapon and crippling its ability to support regional proxies.

"A couple of things that are still true and will be true, whether the Iranians comply with the rest of the deal or not: Their nuclear program has been completely destroyed," the vice president insisted.

snelson@nypost.com

Fiends lash 'no hijab' singer

Womens Voices Now

An Iranian music sensation and an eight-person production team were reportedly sentenced to 74 brutal lashings for the singer's viral patriotic tune which she performed without wearing a hijab.

Parastoo Ahmadi (right), 29, and other artists were slapped with the savage flogging by the criminal court of Qom province over a livestream performance from December 2024, according to court documents reviewed by the Guardian.

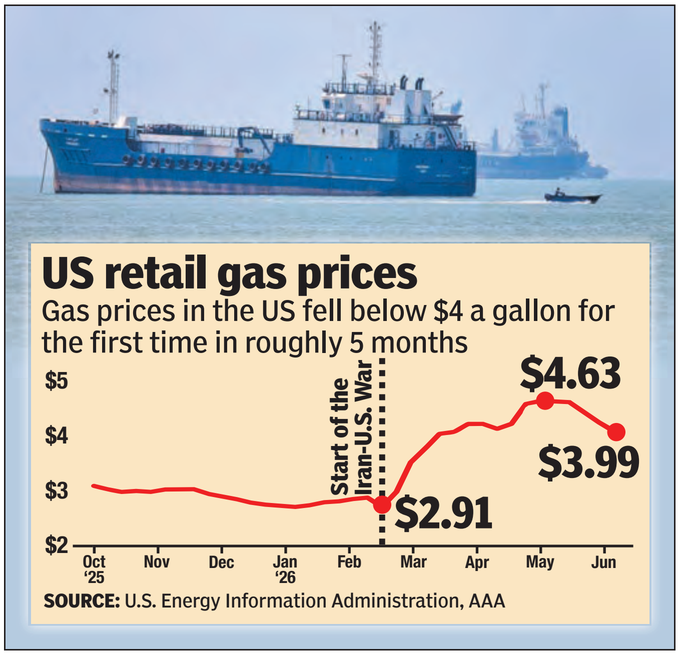
Ahmadi sang the patriotic track *"As Khoone Javane Vatan"* — which translates to "From the Blood of the Youth of the Homeland" in Persian — without donning a hijab, considered a Muslim symbol of religious devotion, the outlet reported.

The video prompted authorities to file a formal case.

Ahmadi and the crew to a two-year ban on leaving the country and a two-year ban on engaging in artistic activities.

Zoe Hussain

Gas prices under $4



SOURCE: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AAA

AP Photo/Amirhosein Khorgooi

RELIEF: In anticipation of the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, average gas prices have dropped below $4 a gallon, AAA says.

1st time since March

By ADAM SILVERSTEIN

Gas prices across the US have fallen below $4 a gallon for the first time since late March.

The national average price for regular gasoline dropped to $3.999 per gallon Thursday, according to the American Automobile Association, down nearly 3 cents from the previous day.

The drop in gas prices comes as the Strait of Hormuz is set to reopen under a memorandum of understanding between the US and Iran aimed at ending the conflict that disrupted global oil supplies.

It marks the first time the US national average gas price has fallen below $4 since March 30.

GasBuddy placed the national average at about $3.98 early Thursday after prices dipped below the $4 mark Sunday.

Indiana has the lowest statewide average at $3.40 a gallon and is among 28 states where the average is now below $4.

President Trump signed the US-Iran memorandum of understanding on Wednesday over dinner at the Palace of Versailles in France.

Peaked at $4.63

Iran's closure of the key shipping route in late February cut off roughly 20% of the world's oil supply, sending crude oil and gasoline prices sharply higher.

Gas prices climbed above $4 nationwide in late March after most shipping through the strait was blocked.

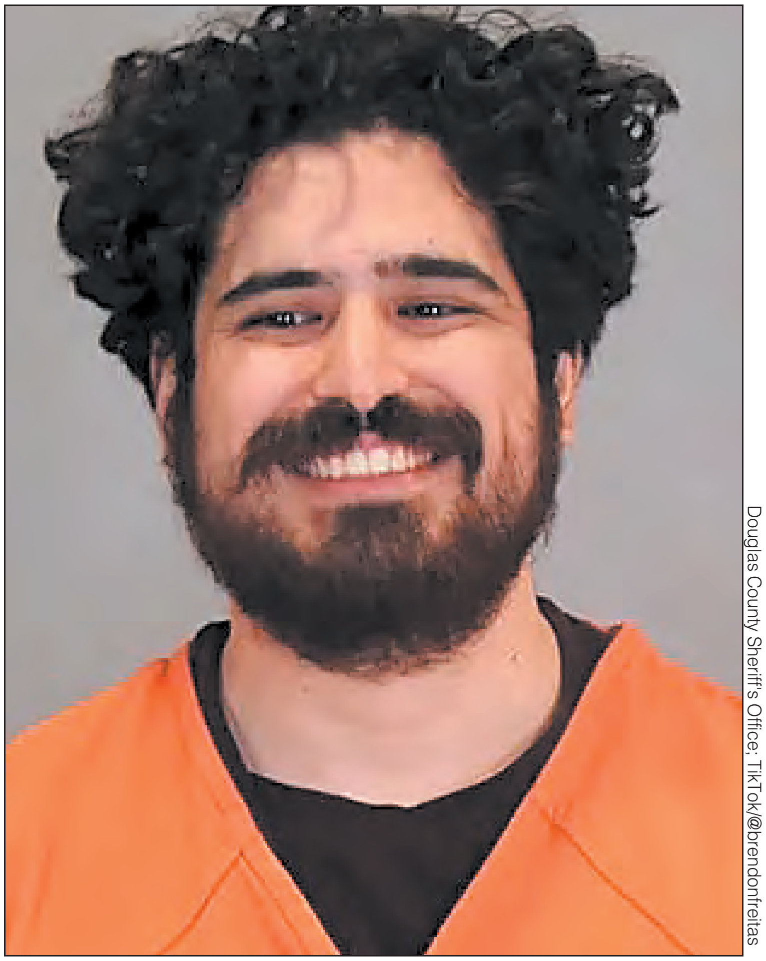
The national average peaked at $4.63 a gallon on May 21 before beginning a steady decline as expectations grew that negotiations would lead to the waterway reopening.

Americans have spent about $46 billion more on gasoline since the start of the conflict, Patrick De Haan, GasBuddy's head of petroleum analysis, said earlier this week, according to Reuters.

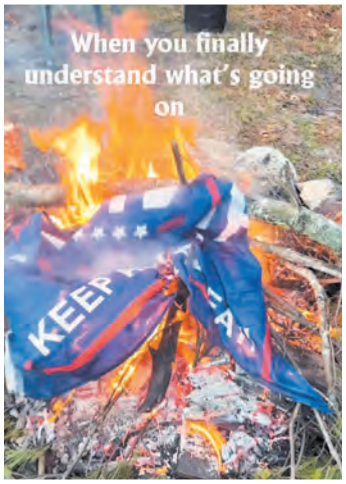
Plotter of WH attack an illegal immig

Won't be smiling for long

By CHRIS NESI



Douglas County Sheriff's Office; TikTok/@brendonfreitas



SNIPERS, TOO: Abraham Alvarez, a Mexican national, is accused of masterminding a failed plot on the recent UFC event at the White House that would have included explosive-laden drones.

The alleged "ringleader" of the explosive drone attack plot against the UFC event at the White House is an illegal immigrant from Mexico who was granted Dreamer status by the Obama administration and allowed to stay in the country, Homeland Security said Thursday.

Abraham Alvarez, 31, came to the US as a child and failed to leave the country when his B2 visa expired in 2001, but was granted deportation relief under the Obama administration through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

He was arrested in an old church in the small town of Western, Neb., on June 14, which he intended to use as a "safe zone" for himself and his alleged co-conspirators, according to a report by WOWT.

"From his home here in Nebraska, Alvarez allegedly directed and recruited others across the country to conduct a horrific attack against government officials in a mass casualty event," Special Agent in Charge Eugene Kowel of the FBI Omaha field office said in a Tuesday release from the US Attorney's Office.

"Our team worked around the clock to locate and apprehend Alvarez, take him into custody, and collect crucial evidence."

Scheme against Trump

Alvarez was one of five alleged co-conspirators in the scheme to kill President Trump and other top government officials at the combat sports spectacle held late Sunday on the White House South Lawn attended by thousands of fight fans.

The plotters, who were arrested in Ohio, Missouri and California, allegedly wanted to attack the UFC Freedom 250 event with explosive-laden drones and then pick off fleeing members of the crowd with a team of snipers.

Authorities said Alvarez was responsible for planning, organizing and directing the coordinated attack, which was thwarted by the FBI and local authorities.

"This illegal alien from Mexico should never have been allowed in our country," DHS Acting Assistant Secretary Lauren Bis said in a statement to Fox News Digital. "He was the ringleader of a failed terror attack targeting UFC Freedom 250 at the White House."

Federal investigators are looking into 23 individuals who were allegedly part of the plot.

Those arrested face possible life sentences and a $250,000 fine if convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, with an additional maximum penalty of five years in prison for planning to commit an act of violence on White House grounds.

It's OK to use pot, have gun

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court unanimously rejected the prosecution of a Texas man on charges of purchasing a firearm while consuming marijuana Thursday, weakening a federal law used to convict former First Son Hunter Biden.

In a unanimous ruling written by Republican-appointed Justice Neil Gorsuch, the high court agreed that the prosecution of Ali Danial Hemani violated his Second Amendment rights.

The court did not address the question of whether addicts who were currently intoxicated could purchase a firearm or whether any person under the influence of marijuana could be deemed too dangerous to have a gun.

The justices also didn't outright strike down the law, which was used to prosecute the younger Biden for purchasing a firearm while addicted to cocaine.

Prosecutors alleged that Hemani unlawfully possessed the Glock pistol while being an unlawful user of a controlled substance, but lower courts dismissed the case on Second Amendment grounds. Hemani was not charged with any other crimes or accused of using the weapon while under the influence.

Ryan King and Josh Christenson, With Wires

Prez elex in Colombia

Colombia's next president must regain territorial control from armed groups who gained ground under the current government, while also working to reduce violence and meet other security challenges, former officials and analysts said.

Sunday's vote pits two sharply different visions for the future in a country that has endured six decades of internal conflict that has left more than 450,000 dead.

Right-wing candidate Abelardo De La Espriella vows to end peace talks that have not delivered concrete results during the term of outgoing leftist president Gustavo Petro. *Reuters*

New jail for alleged teen cruise killer

The baby-faced teen accused of sexually assaulting and killing his stepsister Anna Kepner is set to spend the next several weeks in a notorious Florida jail — a privately owned co-ed facility that has faced accusations of staff corruption, inmate rape and wrongful death.

Timothy Hudson, 16, was recently ordered by a federal judge to be taken into custody by the US Marshals and held at the Citrus County Detention Center, which is the only privately run county lockup in Florida.

The accused murderer's parents tried to keep him out of jail while he awaited trial, having him live with family members as part of his supervised release.

However, this week, a federal judge ordered him to be locked up after citing the "depravity and psychopathy" of his alleged crimes. He was originally charged as a juvenile, but the case was later sent to adult court.

Hudson will be kept in the juvenile wing of the facility, which is about 75 miles north of Tampa.

The 760-bed facility, run by private prison operator CoreCivic, has been the focus of several lawsuits and complaints of wrongdoing by staff.

Hudson is expected to be transferred to a juvenile facility in South Florida next month, ahead of his trial in Miami federal court.

He will undergo yet another mental-health evaluation at the county jail.

The teen is being tried as an adult on murder and aggravated sexual abuse charges after Kepner, 18, was found strangled inside a Carnival Cruise cabin she shared with Hudson and her 13-year-old brother.

He has pleaded not guilty.

Georgia Worrell

JOE ROGAN
Tried to silence him.

Ex-prezes hit Rogan on COVID

Joe Rogan has claimed that multiple former US presidents "threw a lot of money" at Sweden-based Spotify to remove his hit podcast over accusations he was spreading misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Rogan, 58, made the remarks while speaking with behavior expert Chase Hughes during a discussion about influence on Wednesday's episode of "The Joe Rogan Experience."

Rogan was accused of spreading COVID-19 misinformation during the pandemic after he suggested he would not take the vaccine if he were young and healthy. He also criticized COVID-era lockdowns.

Rogan described the pushback he faced during that period, claiming, "They tried to crush my sponsors."

"I can't even talk about it. But there was presidents involved and former presidents involved that were contacting Spotify," Rogan said. *Adam Silverstein*

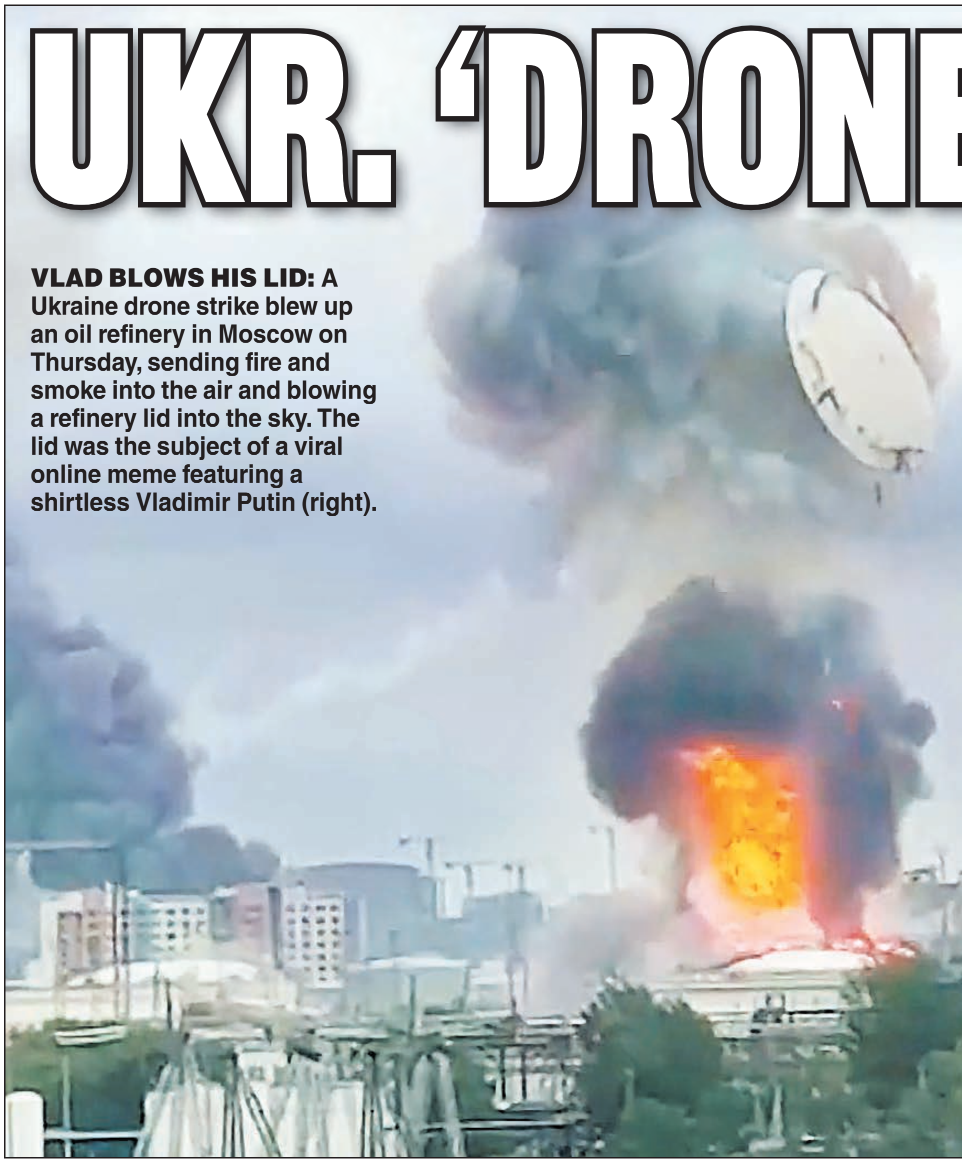
Social-media consent OK'd

A US appeals court on Thursday cleared the way for Ohio to implement a law that requires social-media companies, including Meta Platforms' Instagram, to obtain parental consent before allowing children under 16 to use their platforms. A 2-1 panel of the Cincinnati-based 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower-court ruling that had put the law on hold at the request of the tech industry trade group NetChoice.

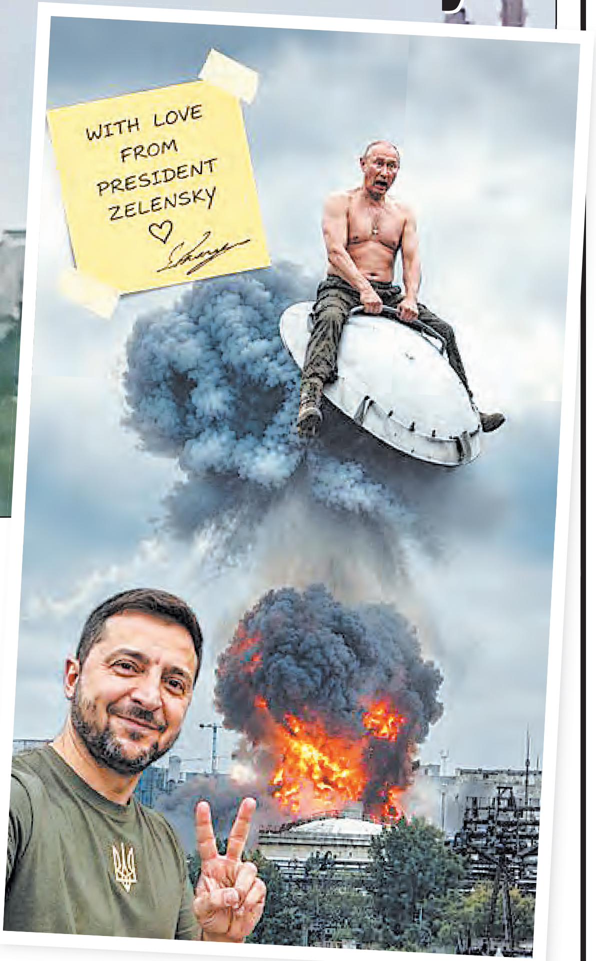
The panel found the law did not violate free-speech protections. *Reuters*

UKR. 'DRONE' CALL

Epic strike lights up Russian refinery



VLAD BLOWS HIS LID: A Ukraine drone strike blew up an oil refinery in Moscow on Thursday, sending fire and smoke into the air and blowing a refinery lid into the sky. The lid was the subject of a viral online meme featuring a shirtless Vladimir Putin (right).


WITH LOVE FROM PRESIDENT ZELENSKY ♡

By NICHOLAS McENTYRE
and RONNY REYES

Ukraine struck a Russian oil refinery and disrupted commercial flights across Moscow overnight Thursday in one of its biggest attacks in more than four years of war.

Fire and dark smoke plumes erupted as Ukrainian drones made it past Russian defense systems, in a second wave of attacks on the refinery in the last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

"Last night, our long-range sanctions once again reached the Moscow region — for the second time this week, the Moscow oil refinery was hit," Zelensky wrote on X. "Targets were also struck in the Rostov region and in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine."

Several drones hit the Moscow Oil Refinery on the southeastern outskirts of the city, according to Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin. Flights at four Moscow airports were stopped amid the strikes, the Russian Transport Ministry said.

Images of the burning refinery have gone viral, with many online using it to troll Moscow and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One of the meme images shows a panicked and shirtless Putin riding the lid of the refinery as its blasts off into the sky, with a smiling Zelensky flashing a victory sign along with a posted note that reads, "With love, from President Zelensky."

Other viral images show the explosion literally blowing off the lid on Putin's head, with others pointing fun at the lid's UFO-like shape to recreate an alien attack on Moscow.

The memes circulating social media ultimately show off the new reality of the war for Putin: that Moscow is now a clear and regular target for Ukraine's ever-advancing drones.

'Moscow will burn'

Putin was hosting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kazan, 430 miles east of Moscow, during the attack.

One video shared by Zelensky showed a large tank cover flying hundreds of feet in the air.

Additional footage showed multiple strikes accompanied by loud explosions across Moscow.

Russia's Defense Ministry claims it shot down 555 Ukrainian drones while intercepting 200 that were targeting Moscow.

It was not immediately clear how many drones made it past the defense systems.

Thursday's drone strike is one of the largest by Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion over four years ago in February 2022.

Zelensky threatened that he would continue ordering the destructive strikes as long as Russia's attacks continued.

"We don't want this war. We never did, and everyone knows it, and our partners know it," Zelensky told reporters Thursday. "But if Ukraine burns, your Moscow will burn."

The attack was in response to Russia's deadly strike on a 1,000-year-old monastery in Kyiv that killed at least 10 people on Monday.

Zelensky claimed he had full justification for the strikes.

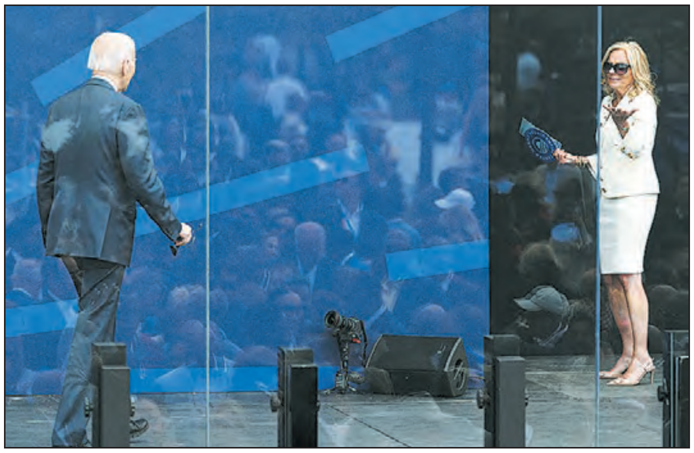
"This is a fully justified response to Russian attacks on our cities and communities and another important result of our warriors' work against facilities that sustain Russia's war machine," Zelensky said on X.

Following the attacks, Zelensky called on Russia to make a deal to end the ongoing war as the two countries continue to trade drone strikes.

"In recent days, all of our partners have noted the precision and effectiveness of our mid-range strikes and long-range sanctions. It is time the war ended, and Russia must take the necessary steps in diplomacy," he said.

The 48-year-old president was back home from his trip to Évian-les-Bains, France, for the G7 summit, where he discussed Ukraine's war efforts with several European leaders and President Trump.

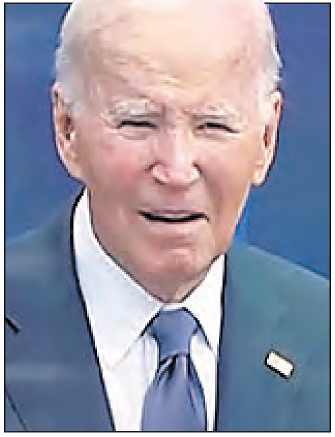
With Wires


REUTERS

STAGING AN EXIT: A seemingly dazed former President Joe Biden leaves the stage with wife Jill during the grand opening of the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago on Thursday.

Dazed Joe is left 'Biden' his time

By RYAN KING



They just left him there.

Former President Joe Biden was awkwardly left lingering by himself on stage at the grand opening of the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, tepidly waving at the crowd after the ceremony ended.

A gleeful Obama had waltzed off the stage to the music, followed by a smiling former first lady Jill Biden, while the 46th president stood there seemingly dazed all by himself.

For reasons that aren't clear, the 83-year-old (inset) went over to the podium and took off his sunglasses before staring into the crowd with a puzzled look on his face.

"Where's my granddaughter?" he shouted.

The former president then seemingly started to make his way off-stage before footage of the event cut off.

Praise from Obama

Biden's rare public outing was reminiscent of parts of his presidency, when he was seen wandering after events with a confused look on his face.

The 46th president joined former Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and their spouses in celebrating the grand opening of the Barack Obama Presidential Center on Thursday. Former Vice President Kamala Harris was also in attendance.

It was a rare public appearance by the former president, who is currently battling prostate cancer that metastasized to his bones.

At one point, Obama went over to Biden and gave him a pat on the back as the two shared a laugh. The 44th president gave him kudos during his remarks.

"Thank you to your steadfast partnership for eight years. Joe, we started as running mates, and ended as family. And we would not be here without you, and we are grateful," Obama said.

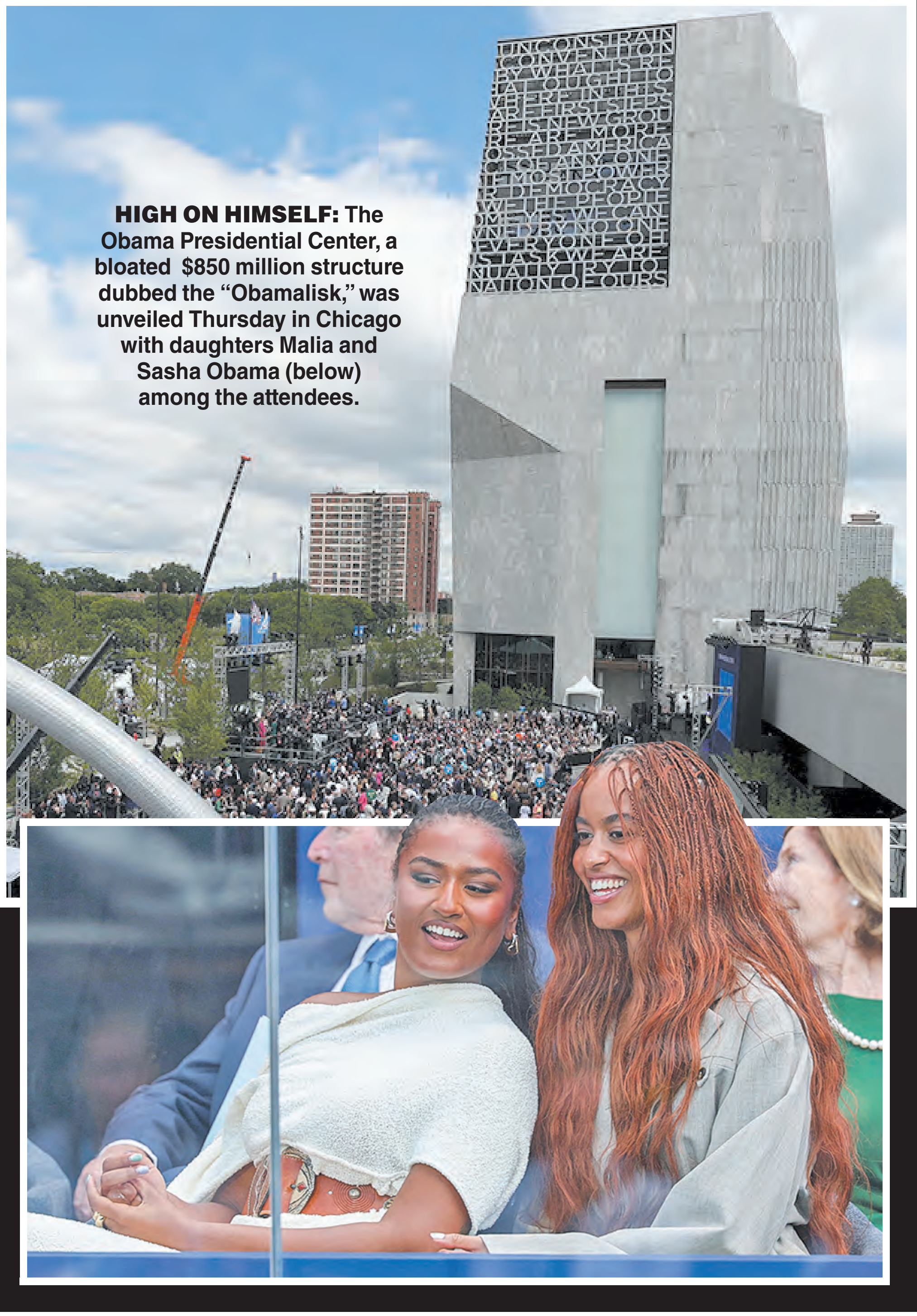
The Biden presidency is a sore spot for many Democrats due to how it ended. Critics argue that the octogenarian should've stepped aside earlier to give the party a better shot at beating President Trump.

"He made a terrible mistake," Hillary Clinton told New Yorker editor David Remnick earlier this week. "He made a terrible mistake for himself, his legacy, and for the country."

Jill Biden recently admitted that if she had a redo, she would've pushed her husband against seeking a second term.

She also publicly claimed that she thought her husband was having a stroke during his fumbling debate performance against Trump in 2024.

Egomaniacal 'Obamalisk'


Getty Images

HIGH ON HIMSELF: The Obama Presidential Center, a bloated $850 million structure dubbed the "Obamalisk," was unveiled Thursday in Chicago with daughters Malia and Sasha Obama (below) among the attendees.

KIRSTEN FLEMING

WHEN Donald Trump slapped his name on the Kennedy Center, he was — rightfully — torn a new one.

His monster-sized ego is something to behold and, yes, to be criticized at times.

But this week another egomaniac unveiled his own monument. Let's call it the "curious case of the disappearing gripe."

Funny, though, how the media and the commentary class that's so eager to declare an existential crisis over every move Trump makes suddenly find themselves out of righteous anger.

It's simply true that, when Barack Obama enters the fray, these same whiners hit the Off switch for the outrage and the grievances they so eagerly and reflexively dish out for DJT.

Instead, they offer tongue baths, back-rubs and praise. Nonstop praise, even as Obama introduced his bizarre monument to himself.

On Thursday morning, the Obama Presidential Center was unveiled on the Chicago's South Side with an A-list group of sycophants.

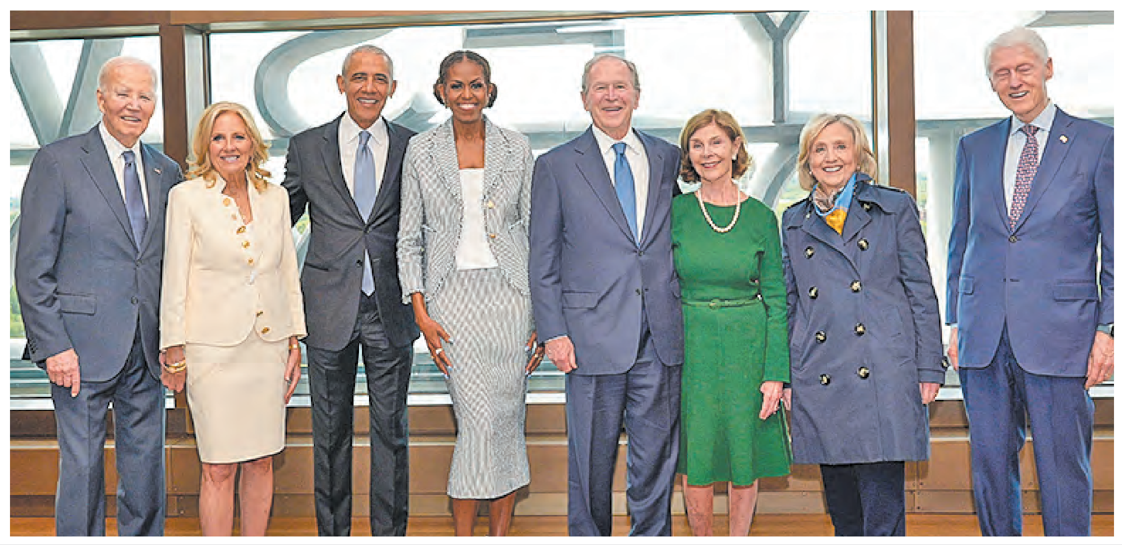
The $850 million "Obamalisk," as it's been dubbed, stands in Chicago's historic Jackson Park and can be best described as U-G-L-Y.

'Of all people'

It's an obscene, Death Star-like eyesore in the Windy City that takes up land that was previously set aside for regular Chicagoans.

"Obama, of all people, should not be building a palace for himself, a fortress in the middle of a

eyesore adored by Trump ballroom bashers



‘O’ WHAT A SCENE: Three ex-presidents, Joe Biden, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton, and their wives were on hand for the unveiling of the “Obamalisk,’ with Christina Aguilera (right) performing.

MONUMENT TO LEFT’S HYPOCRISY

public park. It’s just contrary to what I thought he believed in,” renowned Chicago architect Grahm Balkany, a self-described progressive liberal, told The Post last year.

The Obama Foundation, on Instagram, wasted no time in patting 44 on the back: “We are bringing together some of today’s most prominent voices and global icons for the Obama Presidential Center Grand Opening Ceremony.”

The global icons include Bruce “No Kings” Springsteen, Eddie Vedder, John Legend, Common, Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Hudson, Bono and The Edge, and the Roots.

Stevie Wonder closed out the event with a rendition of “Higher Ground.” We’ll give him a break. He can’t see just how ridiculous the building is.

No nonpartisan voices

It’s not exactly a presidential library, but a museum — and a monument to ego.

Also unusual: No records from the Obama Administration will be stored on site in Chicago. No government archivists will be on hand from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to help scholars research the Obama presidency. It is run privately by the nonprofit Obama Foundation instead of NARA.

“It would be good for the country, especially in these times, if a new national museum with a nonpartisan mission to inform and educate about the Obama era were opening this week,” Tim Naftali, former director of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, told CNN.

But no mainstream media folks or preachy celebrities are calling this out. If Trump took a chunk of Central Park and built something like the Obamalisk, there would be riots.

When Trump said he was going to demolish the East Wing to create a ballroom for future administrations to enjoy, the left mourned it like they would a family member — even if they couldn’t locate it on a map or by sight.

“Top Chef” judge Tom Colicchio posted a photo in memoriam on X, writing, “My wife and I in the East Wing. I can’t believe it is gone.”

But the photo wasn’t in the East Wing. Colicchio just happened to be living in a perpetual state of TDS.

Indeed, this is why our country is divided. All that selective outrage is wearing thin.

Michelle: It’s now about *me*

Barack Obama and wife Michelle appear to have dramatically different priorities for their next chapter.

While the 44th president described his aspirations for the future as “fun,” his wife had a more inward-looking plan — which prompted conservative social media to recoil.

“Me,” Michelle told Robin Roberts of “Good Morning America” when asked to give a one-word description of her next chapter.

The ex-first lady smiled as Barack poked at the ABC host for appearing to rate her answer higher than his. *Ryan King*

Favoring immig fiends over sex vics

Northumbria Police/PA

HISTORY OF DEBAUCHERY: Authorities in England rounded up 18 people in a sex-grooming scandal in 2018. For decades, politicians have treated women as second-class sufferers.

Lefties put women 2nd

RIKKI SCHLOTT

WOMEN around the western world keep learning, again and again, that their interests too often come second to other groups.

In the UK, a reckoning is now underway after decades of left-wing feminists and activists ignoring the sexual abuse of young women at the hands of so-called "grooming gangs" — many of whom are made up of South Asian immigrants.

For years, these vulnerable teens and young women were denied justice. And activists didn't speak up for them because calling out these alleged assailants wouldn't be politically correct.

It's a symptom of a worldwide progressive instinct to put women second behind other "vulnerable" groups. Here in the US, feminists have sneered at women who say that they do not want transgender females in their bathrooms or locker rooms or prisons.

It sends a message: Women are a protected class … unless they're one-upped by another, supposedly more oppressed population. Then they become sacrificial lambs for the intersectional cause.

'Vulnerable girls'

A report published June 16 by Member of Parliament Rupert Lowe claims young British girls have been groomed and sexually abused en masse, often by Pakistani and Muslim perpetrators, across some 149 districts in the UK.

It called out the "systematic targeting of vulnerable girls, overwhelmingly white British, by predominantly Muslim Pakistani gangs," which Lowe claims amounts to "one of the most horrendous failures in the history of the country."

According to the report, which was a non-government independent inquiry led by Lowe, Muslim grooming gangs have been active in the UK since at least the 1950s. It claims that 87% of offenders convicted of child sexual exploitation have "distinctively Muslim names," per court records and official inquiries.

The young women victimized by grooming gangs, some of them very young teens, have experienced abuse, gang rape, STIs, forced pregnancy and abortion, and even coerced Islamic conversion.

And this isn't the first report to suggest that the situation has been going on for years, with little acknowledgement or minimal justice served. A separate 2025 inquiry, commissioned by the government, also found that "the ethnicity of perpetrators" has been "shied away from" in official reporting and police statistics.

You would think this sort of victimization would be a concern of feminists. Instead, it has largely been met with silence — because, in the world of progressive politics, calling out perpetrators who are members of a minority group is verboten.

Julie Bindel, a self-described "left-wing feminist concerned about child sexual abuse," claimed that one of her editors at a premier British publication told her "we would be called racist if we publish" her factual reporting on grooming gangs.

The few progressive feminists who did speak out were shamed and shut down. Labour MP Sarah Champion was forced to resign as shadow inquiries minister after she wrote an op-ed on the issue of grooming gangs. Her piece was described as "incendiary" and "dangerous" by fellow female Labour MP Naz Shah.

Politics over pain

It's not that the female victims of sexual abuse don't matter to the #MeToo crowd. But what women targeted by grooming gangs have learned is that the identities of their perpetrators make their own experiences less politically convenient.

The leftist worldview that emphasizes identity politics and intersectionality also places groups on a hierarchy — and, unfortunately, these frequently non-white, Muslim and/or migrant groomers check more boxes than the disadvantaged young women they victimize.

This pernicious trend is not all that different from what's going on in the United States. Here, too, women are being told that their concerns about their own safety come second.

Women who object to biological males in their private spaces and even prisons have been maligned as bigots and summarily canceled by lefty activists who are, ostensibly, feminists.

You see, trans women outdo biological women in the victim hierarchy. Women are so often asked to put their own needs, their concerns and even their own safety aside in favor of protecting other groups. None of this would be the case if the left could acknowledge something quite obvious: that calling out bad actors in a minority group is not bigotry — and, in fact, failing to call out predators and criminals is its own betrayal.

Keeping cardinal's sins dark

A court has blocked the public release of a Seton Hall University report detailing allegations of former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick's sexual misconduct, overturning a lower court's order to reveal the findings, which Seton Hall has tried to hide for years.

The factual findings of a 20,000-page internal probe Seton Hall commissioned on clergy sex abuse at the Catholic school — including who knew what and how the school responded — are protected by attorney-client privilege, the New Jersey appellate court said this week.

That flips a prior decision in November by a trial judge who ruled that since the school didn't directly hire the law firm that conducted the probe — Latham & Watkins — no privilege existed and the docs were fair game.

"We are persuaded by [Seton Hall University]'s contention that the court erred when it found that no attorney-client relationship existed," the court ruled.

"We are still digesting the opinion and considering our appeal options," said attorney Gabriel C. Magee, who represented the survivors in the appeal case.

McCarrick — who was expelled from the priesthood in 2019 and died last year — was accused by at least 10 victims, including one who claimed in a lawsuit last year that he ran a sex abuse ring out of his Sea Girt beach house. *Peter Senzamici*

Cuba gets US message

Cuba's prime minister on Thursday presented lawmakers with sweeping reforms backed by the Communist Party and former leader Raul Castro that would privatize a vast swath of its socialist economy in a bid to survive punishing US sanctions.

The measures would represent the single largest change to Cuba's socialist model since former leader Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution and a major shift toward a market economy.

They would open the door to private real estate development on the Caribbean island, transform state-owned businesses into private commercial ventures and allow private banks to enter Cuba's finance sector. *Dave Sherwood*

REBECCA HILL
Accused of jury interference.

Murdaugh clerk asks 'immunity'

The South Carolina court clerk who torpedoed Alex Murdaugh's double murder case offered a ridiculous excuse for why Murdaugh's lawsuit against her should be tossed.

Rebecca "Becky" Hill, the disgraced clerk in Colleton County, said she should benefit from "quasi-judicial immunity" and therefore shouldn't have to face Murdaugh's civil claims that she interfered with the jury that convicted him.

Hill also claimed that she shouldn't be on the hook for damages to reimburse him for legal costs of defending his murder case because he would have been forced to dish out the money for his defense regardless of her meddling.

The legal costs "are not traceable to [Hill's] actions," according to court papers she filed Thursday in the federal case.

Murdaugh, a 57-year-old disbarred lawyer, is seeking $600,000 in damages against Hill. *Priscilla DeGregory*

Al Qaeda hits Niger airport

West Africa's al Qaeda affiliate claimed responsibility on Thursday for an attack on the airport and airbase in Niger's capital that the government said killed 11 members of the security forces, highlighting persistent insecurity in the Sahel region. Thursday's attack in Niamey, which witnesses said began at around 6 a.m. local time, was the second on the airport complex this year after the region's Islamic State affiliate, known as Islamic State Sahel Province, targeted the site in January. *Wires*

A HERO'S HONOR

3 medals awarded in WH salute

By RYAN KING

WELL DESERVED: Army Major Nicholas Dockery (left), Major James Capers, Jr. (below) and Late Colonel John Ripley's family (son Tom Ripley below left) were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Trump Thursday.

Getty Images (2); AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

President Trump awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to three war heroes who fought in Vietnam and the War on Terrorism, at one point helping 88-year-old Major James Capers, Jr., a Marine veteran, walk up on stage to receive the highest military decoration.

Capers led his nine-man team on a four-day reconnaissance patrol of the North Vietnamese, where they were brutally ambushed.

The Marine veteran suffered 17 shrapnel wounds and was shot twice, but led every member of his team out alive. When a helicopter struggled to take off because the load was too much, he attempted to get off to ensure his team would survive. They pulled him back on.

'Legend and hero'

"I hope this isn't giving you some bad memories, Jim, but I'll tell you, everybody admires what you went through, believe me," Trump said of Capers' heroism.

Trump recounted how Capers had been recommended for the Medal of Honor in 1967, but his commanding officer was "tragically killed before the paperwork was signed."

"That's a bad break, but now you're doing it," Trump said. "The nation kept you waiting far too long. So I say to you, congratulations."

Next, the president posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to late Colonel John Ripley, who also served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Ripley single-handedly pushed 500 pounds of explosives beneath a bridge during an intense three-hour scramble in which he faced enemy fire. Ultimately, he blew up the bridge, which halted the North Vietnamese advancement.

"Dangling beneath the bridge and over the rushing water, with a lot of very angry people watching him, completely exposed to withering enemy gunfire, John completed, not one, not two, but five such trips," Trump recounted.

He died in 2008 of unknown causes, weeks before a ceremony had been planned in his honor. Back in March, Congress passed legislation authorizing Trump to award the Medal of Honor to him.

Ripley's family received the high distinction on his behalf.

"Congratulations, you have extremely good genetics," Trump said to them.

Lastly, the president awarded retired Army Major Nicholas Dockery the Medal of Honor for acts of gallantry during the fight in Afghanistan in 2012.

A Taliban force had ambushed Dockery's platoon, which he fought off to evacuate three wounded soldiers.

"They were ambushed by 150 Taliban fighters swarming in from multiple directions," Trump recalled. "They came from all over the place. The enemy unleashed overwhelming torrents of fire from machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades."

"Without concern for his own life at all, Nick raced across the open ground to rally his scattered team," he went on. "Major Dockery, you were the last man to depart the battlefield that day, and you left it a legend and a hero. We proudly award you the Congressional Medal of Honor."

rking@nypost.com

Parting shot as killer shipped upstate

James Carbone/Pool Newsday via AP

AT LAST: Asa Ellerup (inset), serial killer Rex Heuermann's ex-wife, said he deserved his life sentence for killing eight sex workers.

JUSTICE AT LAST: EX-WIFE

By KEVIN SHEEHAN
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

Good riddance.

The ex-wife of Long Island serial killer Rex Heuermann said Thursday that he got what he had coming — even as the hulking brute was shipped upstate to start serving a life sentence for butchering eight sex workers.

"She believes Rex got what he deserves," Bob Macedonio, the lawyer for the killer's former spouse, Asa Ellerup, told The Post. "She believes the sentence was 100% appropriate and her thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families."

Heuermann, 62, was sentenced to three life terms in Suffolk County court Wednesday after pleading guilty to strangling his victims to death between 1993 and 2010, torturing and dumping the bodies.

The confessed killer was taken from the Suffolk County jail on Thursday morning transferred to the Green Haven Correctional Facility in Dutchess County, the county sheriff's office and state officials said.

"Rex Heuermann is currently undergoing admission processing at Green Haven Correctional Facility, one of the department's designated intake facilities," a rep for the state Department of Correction and Community Supervision said in an email.

Forever home unclear

Authorities have not revealed which prison will ultimately be Heuermann's forever home.

The 6-foot-4 Massapequa Park architect confessed to killing eight women and dumping their bodies along desolate stretches of Long Island, where they were found starting in December 2010.

In April, Heuermann confessed to killing Amber Lynn Costello, 27; Megan Waterman, 22; Melissa Barthelemy, 24; and Maureen Brainard-Barnes, 25, who were famously known as the "Gilgo Four" — as well as Valerie Mack, 24; Jessica Taylor, 20; and Sandra Costilla, 28, the first victim killed in 1993.

He also copped to killing Karen Vergata, 34, whose 1996 murder had not been linked to him.

All but one of his victims were mercilessly bound and tortured to death in a "kill room" in the family's basement while Ellerup and the couple's two children were out of town.

At an emotional sentencing hearing in Riverhead on Wednesday, 13 relatives of the slain women faced the killer for the first time, delivering heart-wrenching victim impact statements.

"Look at me while I'm talking," Barthelemy's sister, Amanda Funderburg, told Heuermann.

"I was forced to live with crippling anxiety, depression, PTSD, and destroyed nervous system constantly staring at my phone," Funderberg told the killer. "Because of the several times you had called me from my sister's phone telling me she was a whore."

Push for TV in fed courts

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) Thursday pushed legislation through the Senate Judiciary Committee to allow cameras in federal courtrooms, arguing that greater public access would strengthen confidence in the judicial system.

The "Sunshine in the Courtroom" act, introduced by Grassley and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), would give federal judges discretion to permit cameras in the court proceedings while preserving the right for a fair trial.

Grassley's separate bipartisan legislation, the "Cameras in the Courtroom" Act, co-led by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), would allow television coverage of open Supreme Court sessions, unless a majority of justices determines that it would violate the due process rights of a party in the case.

Versions of the Sunshine in the Courtroom Act have been introduced repeatedly since 2015, while the Cameras in the Courtroom Act has received bipartisan support in multiple Congresses since 2021.

While most state courts already permit some sort of camera access, federal courts have remained largely resistant. *Ally Goelz*

Stabbing in Chelsea

A 37-year-old man is clinging to life after he was stabbed inside a Chelsea residence for the blind late Wednesday, cops said.

The victim was knifed in the stomach inside the building on West 23rd Street near Seventh Avenue around 11:40 p.m, which houses Selis Manor and the Associated Blind Foundation, police said.

He was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where he was listed in critical condition, authorities said.

No arrests had been made by Thursday, and the motive remains under investigation, police said.

Amanda Woods

Mam & Bern B'klyn boost for lefty candidates

Socialist firebrands Mayor Mandani and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders warned of a new radical "movement" sweeping the nation at a rally Thursday night to boost a slate of lefty Big Apple congressional House hopefuls.

The progressive bullhorns juiced the packed "Our Year, Our Team" crowd at Kings Theatre in Flatbush to support a slate of Mamdani-backed Democratic Socialists of America congressional candidates for the pivotal June 23 Democratic primaries.

The candidates — two of whom are pitted against establishment Dems — include former NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, running in the 10th House District, Democratic socialist state Assembly Member Claire Valdez for the 7th House District, and Darializa Avila Chevalier for the 13th House District.

"The Democratic Party must change. The party of the past will not be what leads us into the future, for we need a democratic party with a backbone," Mamdani told the raucous crowd.

Haley Brown, Zoe Hussain

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Sick human safari 'slay guy' sought

An Italian aristocrat obsessed with collecting military weaponry is accused of paying a hefty sum to hunt innocent people during the twisted "human safari" killings under the cover of the Bosnian war.

The unidentified man, who comes from a wealthy family from Milan, allegedly cashed high amounts of money to join snipers in Sarajevo during the mid-'90s war, according to The Times of London on Wednesday.

The trigger-happy killers allegedly stationed themselves with Serbian gunmen on hills above the Bosnian city, where the foreigners fired at citizens below as war ravaged the area.

The man is wanted for questioning by magistrates in Italy. He allegedly boasted multiple times about his trip to Sarajevo during dinner conversations with his close pals.

"I was approached by a witness who reported the aristocrat had boasted to friends about the safari more than once over dinner," investigative writer Ezio Gavazzeni told the outlet. "I believe the friends have also been questioned."

Italian investigators have already questioned four alleged shooters since allegations of the high-society murder tours first came out in the 2022 documentary "Sarajevo Safari." *Nicholas McEntyre*

Judge frees ICE detainee

Islamic Society of Milwaukee President Salah Sarsour, a Palestinian American detained by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement in March, was released from detention on Thursday after an order by a federal judge. "Mr. Sarsour has raised a 'substantial' First Amendment [free speech] retaliation claim, which could render his detention unlawful," US District Court Judge James Patrick Hanlon said in the ruling on Thursday. The judge was appointed by President Trump during his first term.

ISM, Wisconsin's largest mosque, says Sarsour, 53, is a legal permanent resident who has lived in the US for over three decades.

The mosque had said Sarsour was "being targeted on the basis of his Palestinian and Muslim background, and his advocacy for Palestinian rights." *Reuters*

BACKGRID

Zendaya looks super in an Alexander McQueen floral dress under a long coat while promoting her new Marvel flick "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" this week in Amsterdam.

Zendaya's Marvelous

GROWIN' UP & OUT ON HOLD

25M still with parents

By MARY K. JACOB

For millions of young Americans, moving out is no longer a rite of passage. It's becoming a luxury that a precious few can actually afford.

A record 25.2 million adults under the age of 35 were living with their parents last year, according to a new Realtor.com analysis, marking the highest total ever recorded and surpassing even the spike seen during the pandemic.

The findings suggest the country's housing crunch is reshaping the timeline of adulthood. Roughly one-third of Americans under 35 now live under the same roof as their parents, a share that has remained stubbornly elevated for years despite a strong labor market.

The report points to soaring housing costs as the primary culprit.

"The adults living with their parents today are largely employed, and many hold college degrees. What's holding them back isn't a lack of qualifications, but rather, at least in part, a lack of housing they can actually afford," Hannah Jones, senior economist at Realtor.com, said.

"This is a supply story, not an employment story."

The typical home listed for sale nationally now carries a price tag of about $430,000, more than one-third higher than before the pandemic. Asking rents have also climbed sharply over the same period, putting both ownership and renting farther out of reach for many younger households.

Had living arrangements remained consistent with the patterns seen in the early 2000s, nearly 4.9 million fewer adults would still be residing with their parents today, according to the study.

The trend extends well beyond recent college graduates struggling to get started.

7 in 10 hold jobs

Among Americans between 25 and 34 years old who live at home, about seven in 10 hold jobs. The share of employed adults in their late 20s who reside with parents has steadily risen over the past quarter century, even as workforce participation within that group has remained relatively stable.

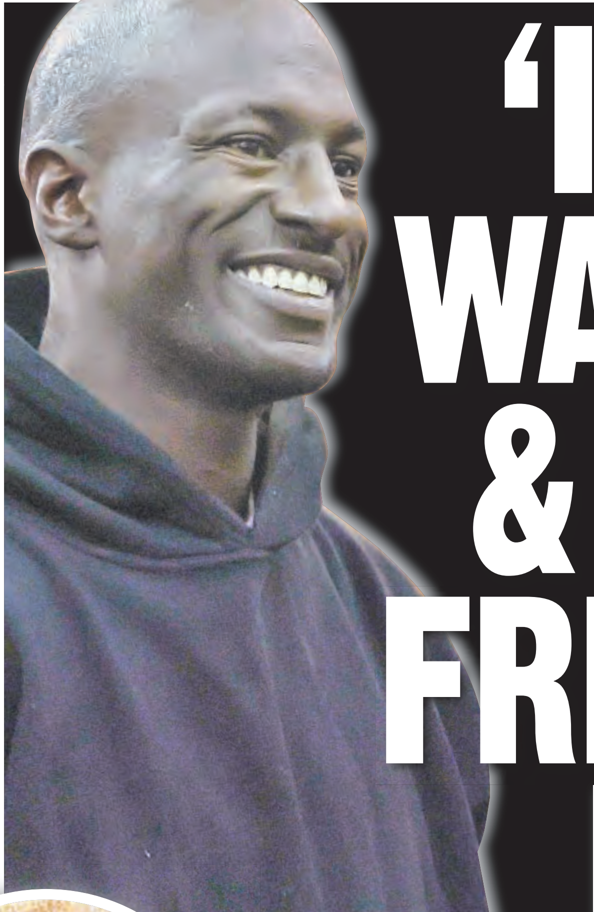
About one-third of 25- to 29-year-olds living with parents possess a bachelor's degree or higher, illustrating how educational attainment has not insulated younger generations from affordability pressures.

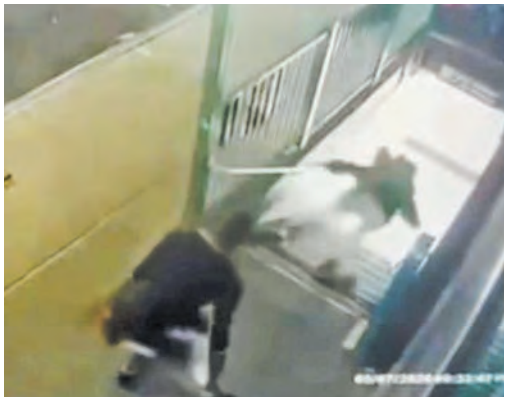
The numbers become even more striking among millennials. Nearly 3 million adults between 30 and 34 years old now live with their parents, roughly double the figure recorded at the beginning of the century.

Subway 'shover' bizarre excuse to cops

By GREG CARLTON

'I WAS WALKING & JUST FREAKED'





HORROR: Rhamell Burke (pictured smiling at his arraignment) allegedly shoved beloved 76-year-old grandfather Ross Falzone (left) down the stairs at the 18th Street station (right).

Obtained by NY Post(2); Michael Nagle for NY Post

The ex-Broadway dancer who infamously grinned after allegedly shoving a 76-year-old to his death down a subway staircase told cops he "freaked out" when he pushed the grandpa because he was "scared," new court documents revealed Wednesday.

"I was just walking, and I got scared because I heard an argument about me," alleged shover Rhamell Burke, 32, bizarrely told cops after being arrested for the May 7 killing.

Burke also claimed "muscle spasms" caused him to deliver a fatal toss to beloved NYC school teacher Ross Falzone at the 18th Street station in Chelsea.

"I was walking, walking, walking and I freaked out," he said.

Burke, who infamously flashed a sinister grin at a prior court appearance, pleaded not guilty after being arraigned Wednesday on murder charges before Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Ann Thompson.

'That was it'

Burke told police he "just kept walking" after sending Falzone to his death on May 7, according to documents.

"That was it. I was just like, walking, pushed, and that was it," the ex-dancer said.

Court papers also uncovered a mad tirade Burke went on after detectives asked how the fatal shove made him feel.

"I really don't like doing things like this. Torment versus torture. It's torment to be out every day," Burke strangely said. "It's torture not to know. . . . Torment is when you wake up and be like 'I need to wake up every day, like I just need to wake up.' "

Cops checked Burke into the psych ward at Bellevue Hospital as an "emotionally disturbed person" the day of the alleged murder.

He was released roughly an hour later, leading to the fatal push later that same day.

Three Port Authority cops were injured in his arrest.

Burke had a promising career as a dancer, getting some Broadway gigs for a short period, according to a friend.

The friend told The Post that Burke, a repeat offender, had his downward spiral around the same time as the COVID pandemic shutdowns.

His victim, Ross Falzone, was remembered for his kindness and his love for live performances at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

"Ross was a dear, gentle man who enjoyed a career as a social worker for special needs children," a friend of Falzone said.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said: "Ross Falzone was walking to a Chelsea subway station when Rhamell Burke allegedly shoved him down the stairs, abruptly ending his life.

"This unprovoked and terrifying act of violence committed against an older New Yorker shook our city," the DA said in a statement. "My thoughts are with Mr. Falzone's loved ones as they mourn his tragic loss."

Stink vs. new Tex. cop chief

A disgraced San Antonio cop who was fired for allegedly giving a homeless man a sandwich stuffed with dog poop is now heading up a different Texas police department.

Matthew Luckhurst was promoted to police chief in Benavides, a city of 1,1,00 people about 150 miles south of San Antonio, three years after the department hired him despite the stink of his past, according to city records and reports.

He took over his new role on June 1 after city council members appointed him at an April 30 meeting, the San Antonio Current reported.

Benavides officials did not immediately respond to The Post's request for comment.

Luckhurst had his badge yanked in 2016 after a fellow cop alleged he put street feces on bread in a Styrofoam container he left a snoozing homeless man — who never ate it.

The cop claimed he gave the vagrant the poop-stuffed meal to throw away, not consume.

Bizarrely, that same year, Luckhurst was accused of defecating in a San Antonio Police Department women's restroom and smearing a "brown substance" on a toilet seat, the outlet reported — an act he never denied.

Anna Young

SUV-scooter crash tragedy

One teen was killed and another injured on a scooter when struck head-on by an SUV in Harlem Thursday evening, the NYPD said.

The fatal crash unfolded as the teens, 13 and 14, were cruising on a motorized scooter on West 112th Street just before 8:50 p.m.

A Chevy Tahoe driven by a 63-year-old man turned left from Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard onto 112th — colliding head-on.

The 13-year-old was pronounced dead at the hospital, while the 14-year-old boy was in stable condition with a leg injury.

The driver remained on the scene and no charges were filed. *Larry Celona and Zoe Hussain*

Alarm on China, Russia 'UFO' maneuver

China and Russia have retrieved downed Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs) and tried to reverse-engineer them, an expert claimed, citing newly released documents.

Jordan Flowers, executive director of the UAP Disclosure Foundation, said one of the most significant takeaways from the third tranche of UFO files made public on June 12 was that the US's foreign adversaries also appear to be engaged in research that could threaten national security.

"We also have reason to believe that the Chinese and the Russians may have retrieved their own objects related to this and may have tried to reverse-engineer them," Flowers told "NewsNation Prime."

Flowers also mentioned that UAP whistleblower and former Air Force intelligence officer David Grusch sounded the alarm at a press conference that the US is allegedly aware of surveillance of US UAP programs being conducted by the Russians and Chinese officials.

"This is a global phenomenon, and it's really a race to see who can reverse-engineer this first, and it has extreme national security implications that we really need to get our hands around," he said.

Flowers added that the release of the recent batch of files shows that making this information on UAPs available to the public is a "high-priority topic" for President Trump's administration.

The UAP Disclosure Foundation is hosting a forum in Washington, DC, on June 25 to tackle the national security, technological and even religious implications of UAP disclosure. *Richard Pollina*

Page Six

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Maggie trips on good-Times guy

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A New York Times reporter wooed a pop star with a midnight tour of its famed headquarters — and then made out with her in the paper's conference room!

Songstress **Maggie Rogers** revealed the rendezvous of record during a performance at Madison Square Garden this week without naming the Don Journo. But Page Six has since learned that the man in question is allegedly Times travel writer and photographer **Stephen Hiltner**.

Singer **Rosalía** invited Rogers onstage at the Garden as part of her "Lux" tour. Rosalía has a schtick where she invites famous fans to give a confession as if they were in a Catholic church.

There, Rogers told thousands of fans that "a little while ago, I was single and a friend of mine said, 'I've got someone for you to go on a date with.'" Rogers said she noted the fella "was handsome" and agreed to a night out.

They took a spin around the city in his vintage car, and she found herself "falling in love a little bit."

She went on, "Suddenly he says, 'Oh my God. We're actually really close to the office. Can I take you to the New York Times?'"

"We go in and he gives me a full empty tour of the building. We make out in the conference room. It's like a really good time. He drives me home, we make out in the car," she said.

Fast-forward to the next morning and she was calling up girlfriends — and one of her gobsmacked friends allegedly spilled, "That's my friend's boyfriend." Without mentioning his name, she concluded, "That's my confession. I mean, what a loser. You just can't trust a journalist."

Lachlan Cartwright's Breaker Media was first to report his alleged name.

A spokesperson for the New York Times declined to comment, and a rep for Rogers did not get back to us.

Rogue's gallery

THE art world just can't seem to quit **Kanye West**. Despite his Nazi detour, we've recently reported that collectors snapped up a **Kehinde Wiley** sculpture of West, and we also reported that a set of artworks *by* the rapper are said to be extremely valuable, in spite of . . . everything. Now we're told that Swiss gallery Haus Vischer Weber gave the "Jesus Walks" star an after-hours tour so that he could check out sculptures by his favorite artist, **Joep van Lieshout**. "Joep Van Lieshout was commissioned by Ye and Gap" to work on a project, we're told. "Lieshout has been a long-standing collaborator of Kanye despite the backlash and public image."

Joined soccer Club

CULTURE Club legend **Boy George** was spotted watching the World Cup at Planet Hollywood New York Wednesday and (unsurprisingly) rooting for England as they faced Croatia. "He cheered every time they scored and people wouldn't stop coming up to him to say hi," a spy told Page Six. We're told that between watching tense free kicks, the "Karma Chameleon" singer (above) was eating nachos, chicken tenders and empanadas with his manager **Paul** "PK" **Kemsley** and the restaurant's owner **Robert Earl**. His team ended up beating Croatia handily, 4-2.

"Need I remind you, your hips are under oath": "Lincoln Lawyer" star Manuel Garcia-Rulfo and "Hips Don't Lie" singer Shakira have a maybe-romantic dinner at the Sunset Tower Hotel in LA.

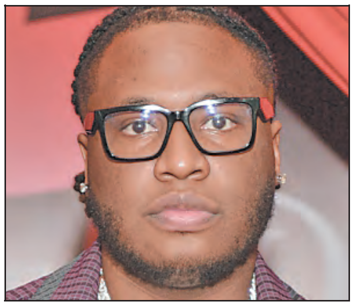
The Hollywood JR / BACKGRID

'Hollywood' Billy scorches weatherman

BILLY Bush bashed his former "Today" co-host **Al Roker** on **Maureen Callahan**'s "The Nerve" podcast in a wild rant. "The way I describe Al is three words: territorial, vindictive and chronically unprepared," Bush said about the 71-year-old weatherman. He claimed the third hour of the NBC morning news program "will never be a successful hour" because Roker is "maybe the worst interviewer on television." Bush worked on "Today" for two months in 2016 until he was fired after the "Access Hollywood" clip leaked where **Donald Trump** bragged to Bush about grabbing women "by the p--sy." The 54-year-old said he was "prepared" and "well-researched" on the job, but Roker was "jealous" of him. "People don't know how mean he was. He's mean. He's a mean person," Bush went on. "When I got there, they said, you know, a younger guy with a full head of hair who the women on the staff genuinely liked a lot. And that was infuriating to him." Reps for Roker and "Today" didn't get back to us.

Majestic reunion

AS Prince **Harry** reportedly prepares to bring his family back to his homeland for the first time in four years, in part to see his father, one big question swirls: Will **Meghan Markle** meet up with the royals she has publicly scorned? Experts told Page Six that ever-"diplomatic" King **Charles** would never shun Markle and is eager to spend time with his grandchildren, having seen **Archie**, 7, only a handful of times and **Lilibet**, 5, just once. "It's a good idea" for Harry and Charles, 77, to reconcile, said biographer **Hugo Vickers**. "The king made it clear that he didn't want his last years to be miserable, and Harry is burdened with enough trauma that, if Charles died without them making peace, that would just cause him even more problems."



Producer dead

HIP-HOP producer Tay Keith has died. He was 29. Keith — who co-produced **Travis Scott**'s 2018 hit "Sicko Mode" — was found dead in his Nashville apartment after a welfare check, Metro Nashville Police announced via X yesterday. His cause of death is unknown, and officers don't suspect foul play. The Memphis-born producer (above) was nominated twice for a Grammy for Best Rap Song: first in 2019 for his collaboration with Scott, and at the 2024 ceremony for his work on **Drake** and **21 Savage**'s track "Rich Flex." He also helped produce Drake's 2018 song "Nonstop."

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Scene 'Cast' aside

SO actors do have shame! **Tom Hanks** revealed what from his career is "painful" for him to watch — and while most viewers may balk at the emotional weight of the scene in question, Hanks can't stand it for his "false" performance. In the 2000 drama "Cast Away," he plays Chuck, whose plane crashes during a work trip. He survives on a deserted island for four years until making it back to civilization. Before leaving on the trip, his girlfriend, Kelly, played by **Helen Hunt**, gives him a pocket watch. When Chuck gets back to his town of Memphis, he visits Kelly's house to return the watch in an emotional scene where the former couple confronts that Kelly has moved on and Chuck hasn't. Hanks, 69, said on the podcast "The Rest Is Entertainment" this week: "There is a moment — it was painful for me — in 'Cast Away,' in which I am back and Chuck is back in Kelly's house and he gives her her watch back." The "Toy Story" star confessed, "And there's a moment where I just think, I'm not there." The actor said he did a gesture that is "false" to the character and was actually more him than Chuck. "And if the movie is on, I will get up and leave the room before that scene comes on," he said.

More celebrity photos at PageSix.com

ALEXJR/BACKGRID

Demi Lovato brightens up **Ariana Grande**'s LA "Eternal Sunshine" stop.

Facing mother lode

NEARLY 20 years later, **Jamie Lynn Spears** has spoken about the revelation that she was pregnant at 16. "I was called the biggest letdown in the world," the actress — who was then the star of Nickelodeon's "Zoey 101" — told People. "I was told my life was over. It was really, really tough not to believe those things." She announced in December 2007 in an interview with OK! magazine that she was expecting a child with her then-boyfriend, **Casey Aldridge**. **Britney Spears**' younger sister told People that, "determined to give her daughter **Maddie** a healthy environment," she left Hollywood and moved to "the middle of nowhere" in Mississippi. "It really was just me and her," Jamie Lynn told the mag. "I had to be like, 'Look, this little girl needs you. You better figure it out.' I wanted to create a good, stable life for my daughter." She went on to marry businessman **Jamie Watson**, and the pair have another daughter together.

We hear

THAT Shamnoski Gallery returns to the Hamptons Fine Art Fair with rare works by the "artists who helped define the East End's artistic legacy" . . . THAT the Hedges Inn's new owner, the Colony Hotel's **Sarah Wetenhall**, enlisted designer **David Netto** to give the historic spot a face-lift without losing its original charm.

BACKGRID

Lauren Sánchez keeps all eyes on her, even though her hubby, **Jeff Bezos**, was the one giving a talk at a Viva Technology event in Paris.

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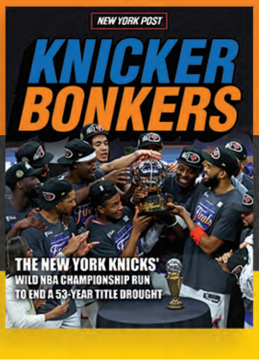
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Courtesy of the ASPCA

Pet house of horror in B'klyn

A Brooklyn woman was arrested after two dozen animals — including a dead dog — were discovered in her deplorable Brooklyn apartment, according to authorities.

Jessica Styles, 45, was hit with a slew of charges after rescuers and cops discovered 27 neglected animals in an apartment in Ocean Hill on Wednesday, according to the NYPD and the ASPCA.

Authorities were executing a search warrant at the property after a complaint about animals living in poor conditions was filed last week regarding a strong smell and barking from the house of horrors.

Many of the animals, including 22 dogs, four cats, and one pigeon, were found housed in crates throughout the residence. One dead puppy was also discovered in the apartment, the ASPCA said.

The animals were all taken to the ASPCA Animal Recovery Center in Manhattan and the organization's recovery and rehabilitation center in the Hudson Valley for further treatment, officials said.

Many of the fidos rescued from the home were covered in urine and feces and had severe flea infestations. Some of the younger pups were also underweight.

Styles was charged with one count of aggressive cruelty to animals and 27 counts of torture, injure, and not feeding an animal, cops said. *Zoe Hussain*

Repeated gunfire causes wild panic

FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES: Several people were involved in a fight that resulted in gunfire, sending scores of tourists and commuters scrambling for safety. A suspect is in custody.

X/@RapidReport2025 (2)

TERROR IN TIMES SQ.

By KHRISTINA NARIZHNAYA and DANIEL CODY

Several gunshots rang out during a dispute in the heart of Times Square on Thursday afternoon, sending panicked tourists and commuters scrambling for safety.

Wild video shows at least two people in black clothing open fire with what appears to be handguns as they step into the tourist-packed intersection.

Nobody was struck by the gunfire, but a bullet did hit a car when at least one gunman opened fire near West 44th Street and Seventh Avenue just after 3:30 p.m., cops and witnesses said.

"There were shots fired, and my car got hit in the hood," Bonnie White told The Post.

"I just heard the shots fired, and I seen the guy," she said "I'm pissed. I'm so mad. I don't know what's going to happen to my car."

Police said several people were involved in a fight that exploded into gunfire.

Witnesses reported hearing about five shots and wild video captured that moment, showing scores of people bolt for cover.

"One dude shot another dude and the police got him," an eyewitness, who declined to give his name, told The Post. "I didn't hear no fight, I just heard shots.

Five shots heard

"Five shots. Bang bang bang bang bang! People started running. Everybody just took cover. Once they apprehended him, it was back to normal. Now we over here eating shishkabab and chillin'."

Another witness said police caught the suspect "real quick," although it was not immediately clear if the gunman was injured.

"It's unfortunate," the witness said.

"This is supposed to be the best day out here in New York. The Knicks took the W, that's all we ever wanted for 53 years."

A gun was recovered at the scene and one suspect is in custody.

Charges were pending.

The shooting occurred hours after the Knicks ticker-tape, which drew an estimated 2 million fans to lower Manhattan, came to an end.

Times Square was the scene of similar mayhem after the Knicks clinched the NBA championship over the weekend.

A 17-year-old was shot in the left foot at West 42nd Street and Broadway at about 2 a.m. Sunday as New Yorkers went berserk for the hometown team's first title in 53 years.

The teenager was taken to Bellevue Hospital in stable condition.

'Don't shoot, I have kids'

A maniac heartlessly gunned down an Alabama nurse and mother of two young children as she walked to her car after work while on the phone with her husband, who heard her pleading for her life moments before she was shot.

"Please don't, I have babies," were the final terrified words spoken by Ada Doss, 27, a nurse manager at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, before Matthew Taylor allegedly shot her dead on May 12. Taylor allegedly stalked her through the parking lot until she reached the vehicle, and shot her one time, investigators said.

Taylor was charged with capital murder. *Chris Nesi*

'You & wheelchair stay off jet'

Model and business executive Samanta Bullock claimed she was blocked from boarding a British Airways flight at JFK Airport because she was flying alone while using her wheelchair.

Bullock, the founder of Bullock Inclusion — a company fighting for a more inclusive world, made the shocking revelation when she arrived at the terminal for her flight to London and was allegedly told she wouldn't be getting on the flight, in what she says was discrimination against her disability.

"I was not denied because of a ticket issue, a safety violation or missing documentation. I was denied because I am disabled and traveling independently," Bullock wrote on social media Sunday. "The explanation I was given was shocking. I was told that because I was traveling alone, the crew could not assist me to get to the toilet during the flight and could not evacuate me in an emergency," she said.

"We are sorry for our customer's experience and are urgently looking into what happened," a British Airways spokesperson told The Post.

Nicholas McEntyre

DANA'S BEST BET

High roller took UFC all the way to White House

By MICHAEL KAPLAN

Dana White is a gambling man. In his home city of Las Vegas, the UFC boss is known to bet as much as $400,000 per hand at the baccarat tables. His wagering, and drinking, were once so prolific that he lost $3 million over the course of a single night and did not realize it — until his casino host told him the next day.

Nevertheless, according to Vegas host Steve Cyr, "Dana is a dangerous gambler because he'll play three hands for $300,000 each, win and go home with $900,000. He'll hit and run. He won't play for hours, and he doesn't give a s--t about comps. He's got his own jet and will pay for his own dinner. Plus, he has the bankroll" to withstand losses and bet huge.

White's latest gamble? Sixty million dollars to put on UFC Freedom 250, a mixed martial arts extravaganza that brought fights to the White House lawn.

The eight-figure sum provided President Trump with the ultimate 80th birthday party, some 200,000 people watching live, as well as what White characterized as "monstrous" numbers for streaming views.

As for what White himself might have gotten out of the whole thing, biographer Michael Thomsen, author of "Cage Kings," told The Post, "I'm sure it was a high-water mark for Dana. He's always been big on visualizing; he's a big Tony Robbins fan, and that is one of Tony's main tenets. He could have easily visualized [the White House event]. It's one of those weird little things that become possible when you have your nose down and you go step by step. On a professional level, I think it is very meaningful and life-affirming for him to go where no one else has gone."

Wealthy but still tough

According to Sports Illustrated, White has ascended to a point that few of us will ever reach: The magazine reports that he has a net worth of some $500 million.

"My gut inclination would be that it is probably more than that. Before the UFC sale to Endeavor [for $4 billion, in 2016, of which White is said to have received some $360 million], he received at least $100 million in bonuses alone, not counting salary or executive compensation," Thomsen said.

White indulges a life worthy of mogul status. His idea of a vacation is renting a 377-foot yacht for $2.8 million per week.

White's Vegas home — which he shares with Anne, his wife of 30 years (they met in middle school) and three kids — has nine bedrooms and sits on a compound said to be worth $60 million. He drives a Ferrari Testarossa, a customized Maybach van and a Barracuda muscle car from 1971.

"Obviously, with the UFC, he's flying on private jets," Thomsen added.

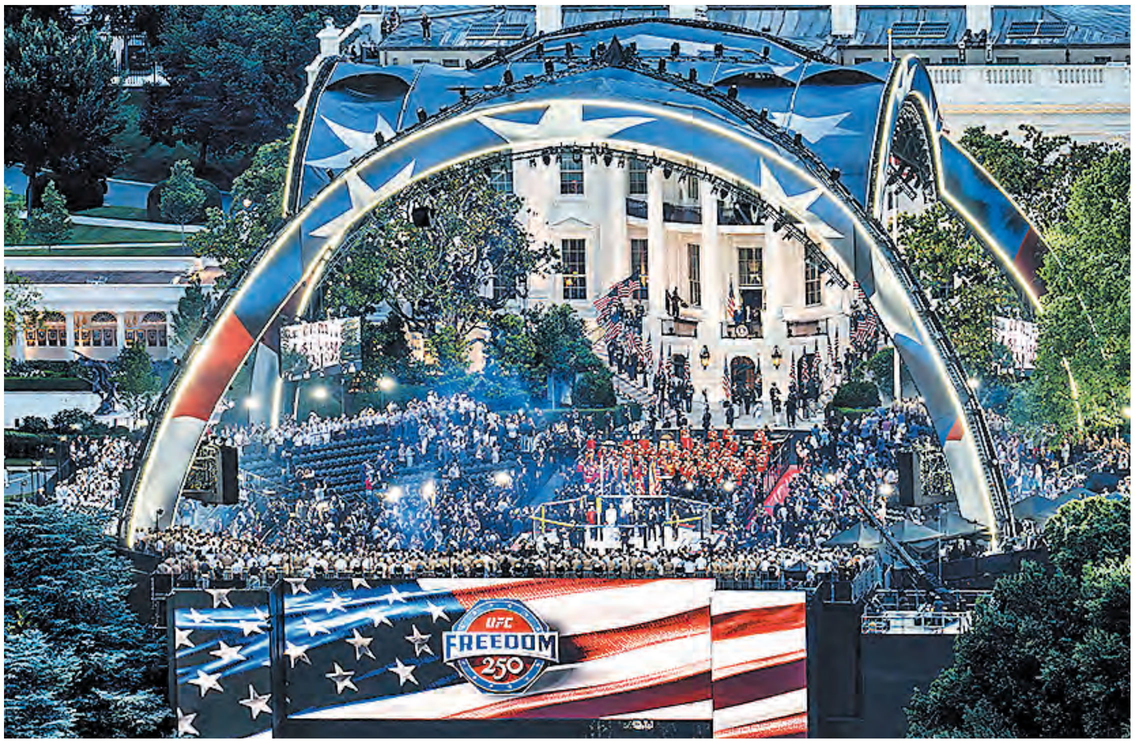
But massive wealth has not made White, 56, soft. This past May, at the White House Correspondents Dinner, when Secret Service agents rushed in brandishing automatic weapons and demanding that everyone get down, White remained on his feet, standing alongside Pete Hegseth.

Soon after, in conversation with the New Yorker's David Remnick, White said of the mayhem, "I'm never a 'get down' kind of guy. If there's something going on here, I got bad news for my family — it's going to be a closed casket, because I'm not getting shot in the back laying on the ground."

Born in Connecticut, White was in third grade when he moved with his sister and mother, a nurse who raised them solo, to Vegas. He squeaked through high school before dropping out of college twice.

Help from Trump

White landed in Boston during the late 1980s, getting into boxing and the gym business. By the early '90s, he was back in Vegas with the hopes of eluding violent mobster Whitey Bulger and a $2,500 debt that he could



GAMBLING SPIRIT: UFC boss Dana White (left with son Aiden) loves to bet big, with the latest and perhaps most high-profile example being the "UFC Freedom 250" show at the White House on Sunday (above). White arrived (far right) for the MMA extravaganza with President Trump, who provided early assistance when White's nascent UFC was getting off the ground. The UFC mogul lives with wife Anne (together bottom left) in a Las Vegas spread reportedly worth $60 million.

WAS ON HIMSELF

AFP via Getty Images; WireImage; Instagram/aidan_white

not pay.

There, he became the jiujitsu trainer of choice for casino bosses and managed MMA fighters Tito Ortiz and Chuck Liddell.

He also reunited with high school chum Lorenzo Fertitta and his brother Frank, who were running Station Casinos. When White found out that UFC was for sale, he got the Fertittas to put up $2 million to buy it.

A quandary over the brand launched White's friendship with Trump. With UFC having been characterized as "human cock fighting" by critics and banned in 36 states, finding a place to hold fights was tough.

"Dana went to a couple of venues and they shot him down," said Burt Watson, who began working on logistics for UFC soon after White took over.

"He wound up in Atlantic City, talking to Trump, and Trump said, 'What the hell, I'll give it to you.' He gave us the venue and, with that, we got a little television deal. And he showed up at two of the [first] fights."

Watson said the two men have something in common, for better or worse: "Neither one takes no for an answer."

'Fits into this crowd'

The money did not gush in immediately. During the nascent days of UFC, White continued to run his Vegas gym and personally train select clients.

"I worked out there and wrote him a $40 check for an hour of training," recalled "Whale Hunt in the Desert" author Cyr. "The day he got the check, he ran to the bank and cashed it or sent his assistant to do it. He was too broke to put gas in his car. Now he's a billionaire. That shows how good of a businessman he is."

The sport's popularity has certainly been helped by the pugnacious White serving as the face of the fights.

"How many guys do you see running billion dollar companies and dropping F-bombs the way Dana does?" asked Watson. "He talks smack and fits into this whole crowd. He helps put their butts into seats."

Former UFC fighter Randy Couture said he knows White's secret to success.

"He's savvy, he understands people, he stays focused, and he is gregarious. Dana understands the market, and he understands the sport. He's not a d--k — unless you piss him off," Couture told The post. "And then he is an absolute d--k."

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NBA star tribute to pal

Indiana Pacers star Tyrese Haliburton shared a touching tribute to his fiancée's close friend who died unexpectedly during his bride-to-be's lavish bachelorette getaway in St. Bart's.

The two-time NBA All-Star shared a sweet snap of Makenzi Kern and his future wife, Jade Jones, hugging on his Instagram stories.

"Will always love and miss you Kenz," he wrote Wednesday, adding, "Forever thankful for you," with a red heart emoji.

Kern, an Iowa native, died suddenly of undisclosed health complications during the Caribbean getaway on June 8, just two days after her 26th birthday.

Jones also posted a lengthy tribute on Instagram recounting some of her favorite moments with Kern over the years.

Her devastated family said she died while "surrounded by her closest friends on a once in a lifetime trip to St. Barthelemy Island," according to an online obituary.

Her loved ones don't believe foul play, drugs or alcohol contributed to her untimely death, though the exact cause is still unclear.

The circumstances surrounding her death remain unclear. *Anna Young*

Iraq to up oil output

Iraq's oilfields are ready to resume production and a return to normal output levels will take place gradually, Oil Minister Basim Mohammed told Iraq's state news agency Friday.

He said state oil marketer SOMO had contacted all customers to nominate chartered and owned tankers to load contracted Iraqi crude oil cargoes from the country's southern ports.

He added that the resumption of exports would be gradual and dependent on the smooth passage of shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

Reuters

'VEGETABLE' AFTER HER KID'S BIRTH

YouTube/CBS Boston

YOUNG LIVES ENDED: Prosecutors say Lindsay Clancy (above and left with children Cora and Dawson in undated photo) strangled Cora, Dawson and her youngest child Callan before trying to take her own life in 2023 at her Duxbury, Mass., home.

Lots of meds for slay mom

By PRISCILLA DEGREGORY

Lindsay Clancy was practically "a vegetable" before she allegedly killed her three young kids, her lawyer claimed at a hearing Thursday — as the mom appeared grim-faced in court.

Clancy, 35, looked forlorn, her eyes downcast, as she was brought by wheelchair into a Plymouth County courtroom in Massachusetts Thursday for a hearing ahead of her trial set for next month.

Her lawyer, Kevin Reddington, described for a judge the harrowing months during which Clancy battled postpartum depression and her husband, Patrick Clancy, was shuttling her around for doctor appointments and hospital stays.

"I'm talking about when Patrick would take his wife in the condition she was in, as a vegetable practically, and see these doctors and they would prescribe her medication," Reddington said.

Family helped out

For the four months leading up to the murders, Clancy's mom, dad and sister helped to take care of Lindsay and Patrick's kids so they could deal with Lindsay's mental-health problems, Reddington explained.

"It's her mother and father and her sister who lived this torture along with Pat . . . lived with her and her family to try to help out," Reddington said.

The defense attorney said they could testify at trial about, "What they observed, what they did to try to help during that period of time that Lindsay and Patrick were consulting with doctors. When she went to McLean Hospital and they were taking care of the kids and helping out."

Clancy is accused of strangling her kids Cora, 5, Dawson, 3, and 8-month-old Callan with elastic workout bands at her Duxbury home on Jan. 24, 2023. Clancy then slit her wrists and throat and jumped out of the second story of her home, prosecutors have said.

She was partially paralyzed and is now wheelchair-bound.

Reddington is expected to ask a jury to find her not guilty by reason of insanity, claiming she was suffering from severe postpartum psychosis at the time of the crimes.

Lindsay was in court for the second-to-last hearing where prosecutors and Reddington were arguing over what evidence should and shouldn't be allowed to come in at trial.

Judge William Sullivan sided with Reddington that Lindsay's mother, father and sister didn't need to be barred from listening to other witness testimony at trial.

The judge said he would likely allow a jury to hear Patrick's heartbreaking 911 call when he arrived home to find Lindsay lying wounded in their backyard before discovering all three of their kids dead in the basement with elastic bands around their necks.

And Sullivan also approved the prosecution motion to allow the jury to be taken to view the house where the murders occurred — despite the fact the home is currently owned by someone else.

pdegregory@nypost.com

Fiend tosses boy, 3, into UK crocodile pen

A 3-year-old boy was reportedly thrown into a crocodile enclosure at a popular zoo, leaving him in critical condition.

A 30-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after the horrifying incident at Johnsons of Old Hurst zoo in Cambridgeshire, England, Thursday.

The suspect is not believed to have known the boy, Cambridgeshire police said.

The tot was rushed to a hospital in critical but stable condition.

"At this stage we are speaking to people who were at the zoo at the time of this distressing incident to understand more about the circumstances," Detective Inspector Verity McCann said told the Sun.

The circumstances of the incident were not immediately clear, police said. The suspect's name has not been released.

The zoo offers a "crocodile feeding experience" for roughly $100.

The zoo said in a statement that the Tropical House facility will remain closed until further notice out of respect to the family.

Natalie O'Neill

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Kean to return June 30

Mysteriously missing New Jersey Rep. Thomas Kean Jr. has set a June 30 date to return to Congress — after having been absent from Capitol Hill since early March, his adviser said.

"Congressman Kean is eager to return to in-person work on June 30 and resume a full schedule," his political adviser, Harrison Neely, told The Post.

The House is currently slated to break for Independence Day recess on July 2, just days after his planned return.

Kean has missed over 135 roll call votes since March 5, when he last cast one. The Garden State Republican's team told reporters that he was "dealing with a personal health matter" and "focused on his recovery" during his time away from the House.

To date, it's still not clear exactly what health situation kept him away from Congress.

Kean represents one of the most competitive districts in the country and did not make an appearance when he won the Republican nomination for his uncontested reelection.

The congressman is facing a bruising battle against Democrat Rebecca Bennett in New Jersey's 7th district this cycle.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has defended Kean during his absence. *Ryan King*

American Dreamers

TRAVEL OPENED UP HIS WORLD

Pfizer CEO found the 'difference'

ON THE MOVE: Albert Bourla loved his native Greece, but living in other countries taught him to love the US.

Through July 4, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, is featuring US citizens explaining what the American dream means to them in 2026 — including Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer. Bourla first joined Pfizer in 1993 in its Animal Health department and worked his way up to become an area president, COO and, in 2019, CEO.

WHEN I was growing up, I didn't even want to leave my country. I was in love with the way of living, and my friends. I was very happy.

I went to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of the largest universities in Europe. And it was in Greece that I was recruited to the Animal Health group of Pfizer. I lived in nine different cities around five different countries.

The best gift I gave my children was that, during their youth, they traveled with me and were exposed to so many different cultures that made them able to appreciate diversity — and to appreciate that "difference" doesn't mean inferior or superior. Difference means it's just different.

New horizons

I took the challenge when [Pfizer] offered me the opportunity to relocate. I never regretted it because that opened to me very new horizons.

The American dream, to me, I see it as people can grow without having the barrier of who their parents were. It's not perfect, the American society, by any means. But in comparison with other societies, it's like an oasis in a desert.

If you see the richest people in America, almost none of their parents were rich. If you look at the 10 richest people in Europe, probably all of them will be people [whose] parents were very rich!

Not everyone [in the US] has the same opportunities, and there are some discriminations. But compared with other countries — I think we need to understand and appreciate what we have here.

[Compared with Europe,] the US is way more open as a society to immigrants, despite all the discussions that we're having now.

I say very proudly that I'm Greek by birth and American by choice. Because I've chosen to become a citizen of this country. Here, the opportunities are enormous.

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center's celebration of America's 250th anniversary. For more information, visit mcaad.org.

Hez pals sanctioned

The US government on Thursday announced sanctions against Lebanese officials it said were aligned with Hezbollah and members of the previously sanctioned Alaa Hassan Hamieh business network, for obstructing Lebanon's peace process and delaying the disarmament of Hezbollah.

The Treasury Department said its Office of Foreign Assets Control was also designating individuals in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Oman who it said were raising funds and operating front companies to generate revenue for Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militant group.

Hezbollah, a Shi'ite Muslim group designated a terrorist organization by Washington, has been armed and financed by Tehran since it was founded by the Revolutionary Guards in 1982.

President Trump said on Wednesday he had spoken to Syria's leader about combating Hezbollah in Lebanon amid concerns the group will benefit from cash infusions from Iran after a US-Iranian interim memorandum of understanding was signed on Wednesday in a move toward ending the war. *Reuters*

UN warned of atrocities in Sudan

Dozens of countries including Britain, France and Germany raised the alarm at the UN Human Rights Council on Thursday that Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces could imminently escalate an assault on the central Sudanese city of al-Obeid, possibly resulting in large-scale atrocities.

"We are deeply concerned at the risk of imminent escalation on the ground, leaving approximately 500,000 civilians at risk of falling victim to large-scale atrocities, including more than 100,000 internally displaced persons," Tormod Endresen, the ambassador for Norway, told the council in Geneva.

Norway shared a joint statement calling on the RSF to immediately cease its assault on al-Obeid.

The statement was presented on behalf of the Coalition for Atrocity Prevention and Justice for Sudan, comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway, which said they were also joined by 21 other countries.

Al-Obeid is one of Sudan's largest cities and capital of North Kordofan state, scene of the heaviest fighting in recent months of a war that has displaced nearly 14 million people, triggered rounds of ethnic bloodshed and spread famine and disease.

The coalition of countries also urged all states to apply maximum pressure on the RSF and its foes, the Sudanese Armed Forces, to prevent atrocities and protect civilians. It also reiterated the need for unhindered humanitarian access.

After more than three years of war in Sudan, the Sudanese army has control of central and eastern regions, while the RSF has solidified its control of Darfur in the west. The two sides are fighting over the vast Kordofan region that lies between, crucial to agriculture.

"We are gravely alarmed by the urgent risks of atrocities and deliberate killings in Sudan," the statement added, pointing to 10 consecutive days of drone strikes which have killed at least 50 civilians across al-Obeid and North Kordofan. *Reuters*

NEW YORK POST
America's oldest continuously published daily newspaper

The Meaning of Juneteenth

America today celebrates Juneteenth, commemorating both the horrors of the nation's original sin, slavery, and its end.

The holiday traces to victorious Union Gen. Gordon Granger's June 19, 1865, order putting the Emancipation Proclamation into full legal effect across Texas and freeing all the state's remaining slaves. It has since spread, culminating in federal recognition in 2021. But what, as a holiday for all Americans, should we make of it?

Let us *not* treat black history and black life as somehow unapproachably apart from the larger history and life of this country. As the great sociologist and civil-rights warrior W.E.B. Du Bois said in 1905:

We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans.

Precisely. The black quest for freedom and dignity is inextricably linked to the larger ideas that breathed life into this nation, reminding us *all* that liberty and dignity are not to be taken for granted, but to be continually fought for and defended.

With long and bloody struggle, the nation ended slavery; with a much longer struggle, black Americans won long-denied legal rights.

Though black Americans still face obstacles, the new separatism — in which our different races, not our commonalities, will define us for good and all — will *not* advance the battle Du Bois waged.

As we fight that battle onward, we stand on the shoulders of Du Bois and also Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Frances Harper, Booker T. Washington and countless others.

Yes, *we:* It's our battle, no matter what the prophets of division argue. And we should be as proud to take it up as we are awed by the weight of suffering it carries.

Zoh's 'Fiscal Responsibility' Joke

Feel free to chuckle at the irony of Mayor Mamdani joining city Comptroller Mark Levine in calling for a City Charter amendment to ensure adequate Rainy Day Fund cash for the next emergency.

It's John Dillinger calling for better bank insurance: Mamdani just tried to raid $3.25 billion from the city's main reserves.

The city should have a much heftier Rainy Day Fund; it's now just $2 billion, far short of the *$15 billion* the Citizens Budget Commission deems prudent, given Gotham's $125 billion spending plan. But no mandatory reserve minimum can solve the city's *structural* budget woes.

Mamdani's still-to-be-passed financial plan keeps spending out of the red for the coming year only thanks to new taxes, state aid, unexpected revenue and one-off gimmicks. The state, for example, delayed its class-size mandates, saving $500 million this year but kicking those costs down the road.

In total, as Levine himself notes, the budget "relies on $2.8 billion in one-time measures and $2.3 billion in short-term pension savings" — but still leaves the city spending "more than we take in, even in a year of record revenues." The plan's "structural imbalances" create monster shortfalls totaling $25 billion over the following three years.

It's not that taxes are too low: The combined city and state income-tax rates are already the nation's highest, and the mayor just added his pied-a-terre tax and effectively hiked the unincorporated-business tax. It's the spending that's out of control.

Indeed, the gimmicks to cover outlays now — like the stretch-out of pension-fund payments to fund new spending this year — are starting to resemble those that led the city to near-bankruptcy in the 1970s.

Here's a better Charter-reform idea: Place serious handcuffs on spending hikes and budget tricks. If Mamdani and Levine (or, heck, any New York pol) backed something like *that*, it would be real cause to cheer.

Anything less deserves your laughter, or maybe your tears.

Locking in Worthless NY Diplomas

Once again, the state Board of Regents is undermining education standards, this time creating a "path" to a high-school diploma that doesn't rely on schooling.

It's part of the drive to junk proficiency measures, such as the Regents exams that have been the core requirement for the last century, in favor of a falsely named "competency-based" approach that relies on projects, portfolios and "work-based learning" such as apprenticeships.

Just two years ago, the State Education Department scrapped the requirement of passing five Regents exams to earn a high-school diploma; now SED and the Regents who direct it are going to ax the tests altogether.

In the age of artificial intelligence, subject matter proficiency is an option, claim the Regents (who hold advanced degrees).

This, as they mandate K-12 propaganda about climate change — classes that will be a graduation requirement. But demanding literacy and numeracy? Fuggedaboutit!

Good schools will still produce competent graduates, but bad ones will hand out diplomas on the basis of no real learning at all. Serious vocational training might work as a real alternate path to a different class of diploma, but that's not what the Regents are after.

One more time: The people now in charge of New York public education are *enemies* of genuine schooling. Until that changes, parents will have to fight the system to do right by their children's future.

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letters@nypost.com

Sympathize With Victims — Not the Criminals

THE ISSUE: A requirement for New York sentencing judges to visit a jail or prison at least once a year.

- It's wrong to mandate New York judges to visit jails and prisons at least once a year ("NY judges 'jailed,'" June 17).

This would prejudice judges in favor of defendants and convicted criminals. What about the crime victims? Why not order the judges to attend at least one wake and funeral or burial for a murder victim? Or spend a day with an orphan?

Yes, the jails are tough places, but this should not color how a judge rules.

Mark Seitelman
Manhattan

Rowan Wilson

- The requirement for sentencing judges in New York to visit jails and prisons annually is reinforcement of the widely held belief that Democrats in New York City and across the country firmly support criminals over law-abiding citizens, taxpayers, and victims of crime.

The new law does not say that judges will be required to visit graves of victims, families of victims or children left motherless. Victims don't count when the Democrats believe the criminal may be subject to day-old milk. When is this insanity going to end?

Joseph Grassi
Port St. Lucie, Fla.

- The rule that judges must visit prisons is an effort to generate sympathy for thieves, rapists, murders and all those committing crimes against others.

A more balanced approach would be to have those judges visit the morgue to view the bodies of innocent murder victims, attend group sessions of the victims of rape and abuse or spend time with the families of police officers slain on duty.

George Kooluris
Bronxville

- Chief Judge Rowan Wilson should rethink his pro-criminal mandate that state judges must visit prisons and jails each year to keep them "better connected to what transpires after sentencing."

I suggest Rowan instruct judges to visit the hospitals and cemeteries of victims of the out-of-control crime that put these savages in prison in the first place. That is, of course, provided they actually go to prison at all.

Greg Cantiello
Parrish, Fla.

- If judges are going to visit anyone, they should meet with victims' families over the years to see how crimes have impacted their lives. Then they could better understand what these criminals have done.

Mindy Rader, New City

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Brawl on the White House Lawn

THE ISSUE: Mixed martial arts event UFC Freedom 250 hosted on the South Lawn of the White House.

- I've never been a fan of UFC fighting, but watching the display at the White House has turned my head in a different direction — It was fabulously spectacular ("Big birthday 'bash,'" June 16).

I'm willing to bet good money that even the staunchest progressive liberals like Al Sharpton — who complained that such an event invoked memories of slaves sparring to the death— were secretly watching and cheering in the privacy of their own homes.

Arthur Saginian
Santa Clarita, Calif.

- A knockout in a UFC fight is when one fighter is unconscious. The winner of a dog fight is when one dog is critically injured. Yet dog fighting is a felony. Ironic?

Despite its popularity, the president actually promoting this barbaric sport was unseemly and inappropriate.

Jessy Friedman
Marlboro, NJ

- Alan Rechtschaffen's defense of the UFC fight at the White House was wrong ("Trump's UFC Bout: Behind the Fight," PostOpinion, June 13).

This disgusting no-holds-barred fighting belongs back in the Roman gladiator days and should never have been held on White House grounds.

It's rare I agree with most any Democrat, but Rep. Don Beyer had it right: It's a sacrilege to the White House.

Frank Higbie
Bound Brook, NJ

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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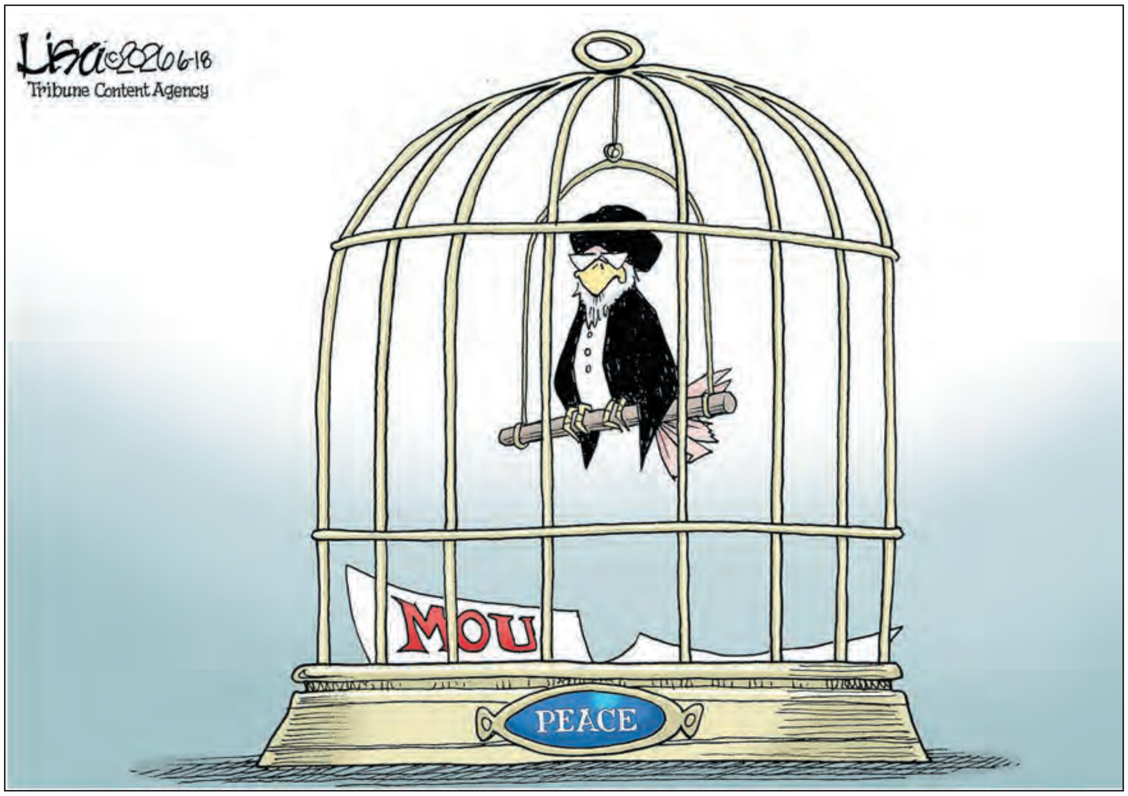

DSA's War on Minorities

DARIUS JONES

THE DSA is hoping to expand its influence in New York's primaries next week, but it's got a big problem: It doesn't seem to care about the people it claims to represent.

The Democratic Socialists of America playbook is simple — and dangerous: claim to speak for minority communities, push an agenda those communities never asked for and leave them with no voice in their own neighborhoods.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in NY-13, a district of traditionally black and Hispanic neighborhoods — including most of Manhattan above 100th Street on the West Side, above 98th Street on the East Side, plus a small part of The Bronx — that's now seeing dramatic demographic changes. Since 2000, Central Harlem's black population alone plunged by over 25%.

Over the years, the left-of-center district has re-elected Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat handily. But this year he's being challenged by DSA member Darializa Avila Chevalier, who aligns with the group's most extreme priorities.

Polling reveals two truths: First, New Yorkers of color aren't keen on what the DSA wants to do to us.

Second, DSA support is not being driven by the working-class blacks and Hispanics it claims to represent. In NY-13, it's being fueled disproportionately by people it usually calls "gentrifiers" — newer, wealthier and whiter voters whose priorities differ sharply from those of longtime residents.

This is all happening while local working families of color have watched their rents and other vital costs soar, driving a sense that the communities they built are becoming unlivable for them.

Meanwhile, the DSA — which claims to focus on affordability — is powered by political forces connected to the very displacement pressures that have made it worse.

Espaillat leads in the polls 35% to 27%, but the story is what's behind those numbers — that Chevalier's political competitiveness is driven nearly entirely by white voters.

Indeed, her 50% favorability among whites plummets to just 25% among blacks and less than 33% among Hispanics. These figures track with the popularity of her stated positions. For example, she has unambiguously stated that she doesn't want to just defund the police but abolish them. She'd also do away with prisons, releasing every dangerous criminal with no one to protect vulnerable communities facing gun violence, gang activity and other public-safety failures.

Nearly 70% of her district's Democrats disagree with her and the DSA that police should be eliminated; nearly 65% disagree that prisoners, without exception, should be released.

DSA members also strongly oppose a parent's right to choose the most appropriate public schools for their child's needs, including charters or other alternatives.

Chevalier and fellow activists refuse to embrace the dozens of schools creating positive outcomes in the district, and the fact that more could flourish with additional support. This, too, is at odds with the priorities of the black and Hispanic families they claim to represent: A full 72% of Democrats believe a parent's freedom to choose their child's public school is critical.

And notably, it's white constituents pushing that figure down: Nearly 90% of black respondents and over 80% of Hispanics want public-school options.

If the DSA professes to speak for communities of color, why does it continually ignore us?

These out-of-step positions are just the tip of the iceberg for Chevalier, whose years of incendiary remarks have put her on defense.

Yes, she's claimed vaguely to have evolved, but it's unclear how.

Two years ago, then-Rep. Jamaal Bowman, a DSA darling, lost a primary after his black constituents learned how far out of step he was with their views on public safety, education and economic investment in their communities.

His support from blacks plummeted because of an honest conversation we helped lead that emphasized how far apart communities of color and the DSA are on these core issues. Our communities don't want outside political movements using us to justify their extreme agenda while denying us control, voice and agency in our own neighborhoods.

With more than 35% of the voters still undecided ahead of Tuesday's primary, it's more important than ever for them to hear the truth.

Darius Jones leads the National Black Empowerment Action Fund.

IT'S WAY PAST TIME TO FIX IMMIG LAW

BETSY McCAUGHEY

SWISS voters went to the polls Sunday and resoundingly rejected capping the country's rapidly growing population at 10 million by limiting immigration. Congratulations to the Swiss for staging a national conversation over immigration — something the US urgently needs to do.

The Swiss have seen their population soar by more than 25% since 2000. The newcomers are for the most part workers from neighboring European countries, not migrants from the Middle East or Africa.

Even so, the right-leaning Swiss People's Party pushed for immigration restrictions, arguing that such rapid population growth strains housing, social programs and Swiss identity.

Opponents of the measure, who dubbed it a "Swiss Brexit," warned stopping the free flow of Europeans into Switzerland would threaten its special relationship with the EU, which buys over half of all Swiss exports. They also argued Switzerland has grown wealthy over many decades, despite a lack of natural resources, by attracting foreign innovators — including immigrants who launched giant Swiss companies like Nestle, Swatch and Novartis.

It's time for Americans to have a national conversation on immigration, as the Swiss just did.

We don't have to come to the same conclusion: The Swiss wanted to make sure their laws served the best interests of Switzerland; our laws should serve the United States. But the discussion needs to get to the heart of the matter.

Sadly, our politics has been fixated on one polarizing, fringe issue — ICE deportations — rather than on the real question: Who should we invite into the United States?

The current law, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, must be replaced with immigration standards that boost our economy and avoid dependence on public handouts. A staggering 47% of US households headed by a noncitizen collect welfare benefits such as food assistance or Medicaid, per the Center for Immigration Studies. Ouch.

> **Immigrants using welfare are not lazy.**

That's almost double the dependence rate (28%) for households headed by someone born in America. Americans are fed up with taking in newcomers who need to mooch. It's not sustainable.

Part of the blame goes to our crazy immigration laws, which give preference to newcomers with family ties — a child or other relative already here — instead of job skills, education, English-speaking ability or interest in American civic life. Congress needs to scrap those laws, enacted in 1965, and give the nation a merit immigration system that will boost the economy and spare taxpayers.

That's what smart countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore are doing.

Another part of the blame for the scandalous dependence of immigrants on welfare is the Biden open-border policy. The 2021-'24 border surge brought in migrants significantly less educated and capable of supporting themselves than those who came before. The number of newcomers with no education beyond high school more than doubled from 2019 to 2023.

The immigrants using welfare are not lazy; most are working. In fact, they're more likely to be employed that US-born adults, but their minimal schooling dooms them to earn little and become a permanent dependent class.

Adult male immigrants now earn 52% of what US-born male workers earn, down from 62% in 2019, because of the Biden surge of unskilled, minimally educated migrants. Ultimately that'll force down wages for low-skilled Americans, too.

The Biden administration's surge was nothing short of treasonous. Like napalming our towns and cities, leaving them with a growing dependent class and public debt.

The border is now closed. President Donald Trump showed it could be done, without any major immigration legislation, despite the Democrats' pleas that "comprehensive immigration reform" was needed first.

A new Harvard/Harris poll indicates this is the opportune time to fix our immigration mess.

The public regards it as the most pressing issue after affordability (No. 1) and the economy (No. 2).

It far outstrips concerns for health care, the US-Iran conflict, the environment or education.

So let's get to it. Political polarization seems to be softening.

A slim majority of Democrats (52%) now say their party is "against open borders."

Republicans, who risk losing control of Congress after the midterm elections, should seize the moment to divert the national conversation from the fringe controversy over ICE to merit-immigration reform.

Who we let in will determine how we prosper.

Betsy McCaughey is a former lieutenant governor of New York.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

The past four weeks or so have been hugely encouraging and your main aim now must be to consolidate the gains you have made, be they personal or professional in nature. Don't do something stupid and throw it all away!

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

You are right to feel pleased with yourself for having survived recent challenges, and what occurs next will give you the chance to prove you are a stronger person mentally and emotionally. It's time to push on to the next level.

LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

The fact that you have worked so hard to help someone in need has not gone unnoticed and the universe will reward you for it early next week. Between now and then, why not reward yourself by going out and having a good time?

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

It may seem as if nothing much of substance is going on in the world around you but appearances can be deceptive and at some point today you will be shocked into action. Some people, it seems, have been very busy behind the scenes.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

As one of the zodiac's cardinal signs Libra can be intensely ambitious, and when the Sun moves into the career area of your chart at the weekend your hunger for success will rise dramatically. You still need a plan though, so think before you act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

It may be annoying that you are the one who is expected to speak up and create a fuss but that's only because you are so good at it. Call it as you see it today and don't worry that you might bruise a few sensitive egos.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

What happens over the next few days will shake up your financial situation, so make sure you know how much cash is coming in and, more importantly, how much cash is going out. If you can't save more, you will have to spend less!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Any tasks that you are working on must be finished quickly, because when the Sun moves into the partnership area of your chart at the weekend colleagues and loved ones will expect you to lend them a hand, maybe even two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Recent ventures, especially creative activities, have been quite exciting, but a new phase is about to begin and you will need to focus more on working with others as part of a team. Remind yourself often that it's not all about you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't be afraid to approach people in positions of authority and let them know who you are and what you can do. You have a tendency sometimes to hang back and wait to be called forward but now you must be more dynamic, even pushy.

ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Others can sit back and hope that good things come their way but you prefer to get out there and grab those good things for yourself. Consequently, you will get into a few scrapes today and over the weekend - and will love every moment of it.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

Your outlook on life will improve dramatically over the next few days. Not that it wasn't a good attitude before but Mars in your sign will take it to a higher level. Set yourself outrageous goals, and meet every one of them.

BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

If you can stay calm while everyone around you is panicking you will put yourself in the ideal position to profit from upcoming events. The world is changing faster than ever and if you can keep up with those changes everything becomes possible.

Post Weather Report

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Friday

Today: Less humid with clouds giving way to sun. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: Clear. Low 61 to 67.

Saturday

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and breezy at times. High 77 to 83.

Tomorrow night: Clear. Low 60 to 66.

Sunday

Clouds and sun. High 80 to 86.

Evening Partly cloudy. Low 60 to 66.

Monday

Showers/ t-storms. High 69 to 75.

Evening Rain, a t-storm. Low 60 to 66.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

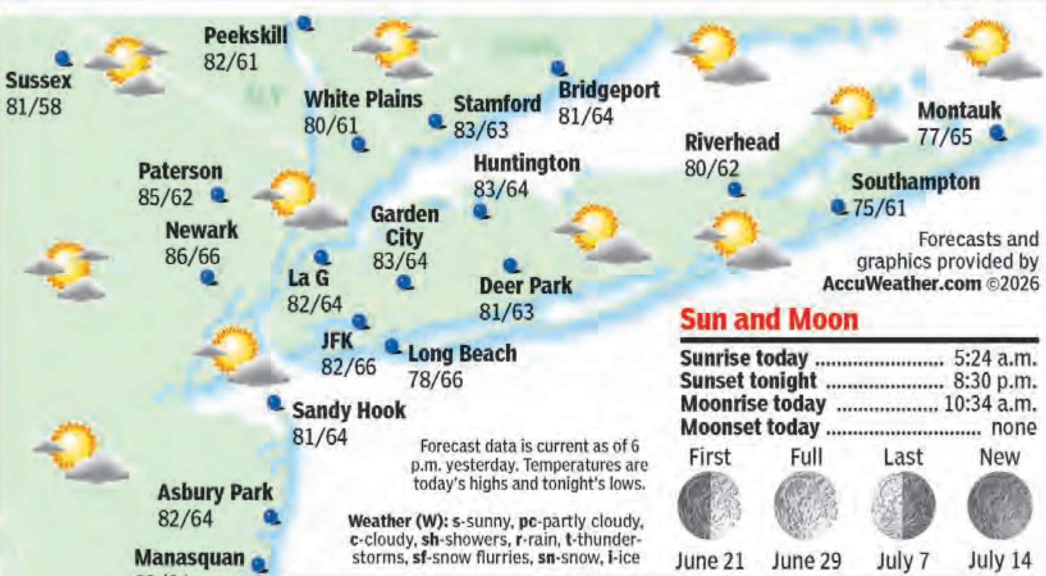
Temperature
High: 85, Low: 68, Mean: 77

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +4 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: trace, Month: 1.68",
Year: 16.11", Normal year to date: 22.11"

Cooling Degree days yesterday................12
Total for the month (normal).......153 (109)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)...........291 (190)
Last year to date.......................................149
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 81
UV index (for Fri.) .... 11 (Extreme)
Humidity (at noon) 71%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: High Predominant pollen: Grasses
AQI rating: (for Fri.).......................Moderate


Sussex 81/58
Peekskill 82/61
White Plains 80/61
Stamford 83/63
Bridgeport 81/64
Riverhead 80/62
Montauk 77/65
Southampton 75/61
Paterson 85/62
Newark 86/66
Huntington 83/64
Garden City 83/64
La G 82/64
Deer Park 81/63
JFK 82/66
Long Beach 78/66
Sandy Hook 81/64
Asbury Park 82/64
Manasquan 83/64
Toms River 83/64
Long Beach 79/66
Atlantic City 81/64
Ocean City 79/66

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

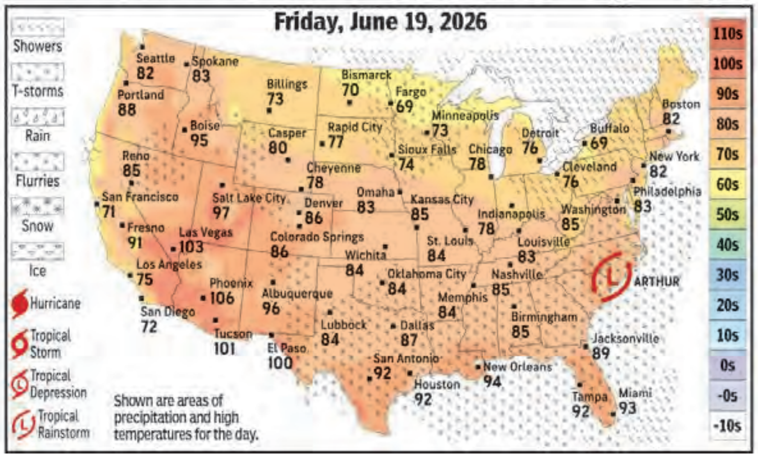
Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:24 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:30 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 10:34 a.m.
Moonset today .... none

First	Full	Last	New
June 21	June 29	July 7	July 14


Friday, June 19, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Hurricane
Tropical Storm
Tropical Depression
Tropical Rainstorm
Seattle 82
Spokane 83
Portland 88
Billings 73
Bismarck 70
Fargo 69
Boise 95
Casper 80
Rapid City 77
Minneapolis 73
Detroit 76
Buffalo 69
Boston 82
Reno 85
Cheyenne 78
Sioux Falls 74
Chicago 78
Cleveland 76
New York 82
San Francisco 71
Salt Lake City 97
Denver 86
Omaha 83
Kansas City 85
Indianapolis 78
Washington 85
Philadelphia 83
Fresno 91
Las Vegas 103
Colorado Springs 86
Wichita 84
St. Louis 84
Louisville 83
Los Angeles 75
Phoenix 106
Albuquerque 96
Oklahoma City 84
Nashville 85
Memphis 84
ARTHUR
San Diego 72
Tucson 101
El Paso 100
Lubbock 84
Dallas 87
Birmingham 85
Jacksonville 89
San Antonio 92
Houston 92
New Orleans 94
Tampa 92
Miami 93
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	12:21p	---	12:32a	1:16p
Fire Island	12:17p	---	12:40a	1:14p
Hempstead	3:12a	3:54p	4:13a	4:54p
Huntington	3:07a	3:44p	4:04a	4:40p
Jones Inlet	12:05p	---	12:16a	1:00p
Montauk Point	12:47a	1:22p	1:42a	2:20p
Port Washington	3:16a	4:02p	4:20a	5:03p
Sandy Hook	12:25p	---	12:36a	1:20p

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	77/59/pc	75/54/pc
Danbury	80/59/pc	78/54/s
Glens Falls	76/58/c	75/54/sh
Gr Barrington	77/57/pc	74/52/pc
Kingston	82/59/pc	78/53/pc
Liberty	75/55/pc	73/51/pc
Monticello	76/56/pc	74/51/pc
Newburgh	82/60/pc	80/57/s
Poughkeepsie	81/59/pc	79/54/s
Saratoga Springs	77/59/c	75/57/pc
Stroudsburg	81/57/pc	80/54/s
Torrington	79/58/pc	76/54/pc
Syracuse	75/58/sh	73/53/t

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	87/67/s	87/70/s
Baghdad	117/87/s	118/87/s
Beijing	80/70/t	86/57/s
Berlin	93/68/pc	91/67/t
Cairo	93/72/pc	94/73/pc
Dublin	67/51/sh	68/49/c
Geneva	90/62/pc	93/63/s
Hong Kong	90/83/r	92/83/t
Jerusalem	81/64/s	84/65/s
Kabul	83/61/s	85/62/s
London	85/63/s	81/63/pc
Madrid	95/70/pc	97/71/c
Mexico City	76/58/r	77/58/c
Montreal	69/58/sh	68/58/sh
Moscow	69/54/c	68/51/sh
Paris	99/66/s	95/69/t
Rio de Janeiro	75/64/pc	78/68/pc
Rome	90/67/s	90/67/s
Sydney	68/56/c	70/50/s
Tokyo	85/70/pc	75/69/r

« **INSIDE** Area camps are piling on the action and the fun, p.52

Summer Family Fun

DINO MIGHT

Come and play where dinosaurs still rule the world

By CHRISTOPHER CAMERON

IS that an apocalyptic asteroid blazing overhead? What else could explain why some of the nation's most rip-roaring dino exhibits recently went extinct?

Last fall, tristate favorite Field Station: Dinosaurs in Leonia, NJ, sold off its terrific menagerie of 25 animatronic dinosaurs. Then in February, Walt Disney World in Orlando abruptly announced the permanent closure of DinoLand, an original piece of its Animal Kingdom park, opened in 1998. (It's being replaced by a new "Tropical Americas" themed land with Indiana Jones and "Encanto" attractions.)

But parents of elementary school-aged paleontologists and precocious toddlers who already know how to say Pachycephalosaurus shouldn't fear another ice age. Life finds a way.

From coast to coast, new and long-beloved dinosaur experiences, along with museums and touring shows, are keeping the saurian spirit of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods alive.

Closest to home, the American Museum of Natural History (already the go-to spot for rex-traordinary fun) opened "Fossils of the Flaming Cliffs," in April. The exhibit highlights discoveries from the Gobi Desert, a rich source of paleo-pay dirt. It also honors the late curator, Mark A. Norell, who studied the museum's fossils and

See **DINOS** *on Page 37*

The Quarry Dig is new at New Jersey's Edelman Fossil Park & Museum, where kids can dig for their own fossils — there's a good chance of success since it's at a site where over 100,000 fossils have been uncovered.

Edelman Fossil Park & Museum of Rowan University

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Catch the Jurassic Quest extravaganza as it tours the States this summer.

Jurissica Quest

FOSSIL FUEL

courtesy LEGOLAND California Resort/Merlin Entertainments

Legoland in San Diego is home to Dino Valley, with Lego brick prehistoric creations and some Jurassic-themed rides.

From **DINOS** *on Page 35*

helped make the groundbreaking link between dinosaurs and birds.

The highlights of the show include a nest of eggs (one with a newly hatched dinosaur) of two birdlike oviraptorids, and the skeleton of an early rodent-like mammal. (Speaking of mammals, be sure to go and peep the museum's Paraceratherium — another Gobi Desert discovery — which was a hornless rhinocerotoid that was one of the largest terrestrial mammals to ever exist. It's on show in the museum's neighboring exhibit "Impact: The End of the Age of Dinosaurs." That show also features life-size models of a 27-foot mosasaur, a 30-foot, long-necked plesiosaur, and touchable triceratops.)

For more adventure that's certified tricera-tops, head upstate. In Albany, the New York State Museum just opened "Expedition Dinosaur: Rise of the Mammals," which runs until January 2027. The show looks at the dramatic moments just before and after the mass extinction event 66 million years ago that wiped out our scaly (feathered?) friends.

There are life-sized animatronics to animate your tot's imagination. Tyrannosaurus rex and Quetzalcoatlus? Check and check. Early mammals like Loxolophus and Triisodon? Of course. There are also immersive environments, fossils and interactive experiences like the "Fossil Dig," "Fossil Scanner," augmented-reality sandbox and "Dinosaur Draw Alive."

The show's centerpiece is the "Asteroid Experience," which uses 360-degree light and sound effects to re-create the global catastrophe that fuels our SUVs today.

Continue journeying north to Buffalo and beeline straight to the zoo, where Destination Dinosaur opened in May. This prehistoric trail plays all the roaring, chomping animatronic hits with T. rexes, Triceratops, Giganotosauruses and more than a dozen other life-size, multisyllabic reptiles on display. Can you dig it? Of course, just head to the fossil pit. Your family may even learn a thing or two at the twice-daily, educational dino shows at noon and 2 p.m.

Over in New Jersey, a forever favorite for fossil hunters, the Edelman Fossil Park & Museum has a new experience to discover this summer. Located in Mantua, just south of Philly, and part of Rowan University, the museum is built on a site where over 100,000 fossils from more than 100 species have been discovered.

Its founding executive director, Kenneth Lacovara, Ph.D., is famed for unearthing some of history's largest dinosaurs, like the massive 65-ton Dreadnoughtus (featured in "Jurassic World: Dominion"). It's already loaded with creatures from the Cretaceous period — monsters that once upon a time tossed their weight around New Jersey like Chris Christie — and immersive fun and scavenger hunts.

But here's a bone to pick: In March, the museum added a new star attraction, the Quarry Dig Experience. This isn't some sandbox with concrete casts; it's the real deal. For $25, you can get on hand and knee, spending up to one hour digging for real 66-million-year-old dino fossils at a site that has produced Mosasaurs, sea turtles and shark teeth.

Should you become an overnight Richard Owen, the museum will display your find with your name affixed. But the museum promises that everyone who digs will leave with their very own fossil (even if you're a lazybones and don't find one yourself). No saur losers here.

Of course, there are dinomite discoveries to be made across the country — from serious digs in Wyoming to more cartoonish takes on the land before time.

For the latter, head to sunny San Diego, home to Dino Valley at Legoland California. Opened back in 2024, the park is packed with pixelated predators from prehistory and colossal sculptures made from 1.8 million Lego bricks, along with three roaring rides.

The "Coastersaurus," which whips past a thousand-pound Brachiosaurus (that's a longneck to your little one), is the most thrilling. Your kids that aren't tall enough to ride will enjoy the Duplo Little Dino Trail — a hide-and-seek jeep track down a dino trail.

Last but not least is North American's numero uno touring dinosaur experience: Jurassic Quest. Coming off its Canadian tour, the show migrates back stateside starting July 3 at the Palmer Events Center in Austin, Texas, followed by dates in Alabama, Virginia, Florida, Tennessee and New Jersey throughout the summer.

Designed for children aged 2 to 10, Jurassic Quest is a maximalist take on the leapin' lizards of the lost world. Expect a little bit of everything. Can you ride an animatronic dino with teeth the size of your toddler's head? Will you hear roars of laughter from dinosaur-themed bounce houses? Can you dig for fossils, do creature crafts, hold baby dinos and walk alongside scientifically accurate Spinosaurus, T. rex and Velociraptors? If you answered yes to all of the above, you've got the idea.

Come on and join the tyranno-chorus.

Admire T. rex's 4-foot jaw and 6-inch teeth at the American Museum of Natural History.

Daniel Kim/© AMNH

Zadún rooms all have a private pool. Kids can immerse in an ecology program (above).

Ritz Carlton; Tyler Branch Photography Inc (inset)

FAMILIA FIESTA

Find something for everyone on the coasts of Mexico

By CAROLE SOVOCOOL

WITH travelers tightening their belts due to the upward spiral in airfares, the rise in multigenerational vacations is spiking even further. (Who better to foot the bill than the grandparents?)

Finding a destination that appeals to a group with ages from seven to 70 can be a challenge, but here's two Mexican beauties, one on each coast, that are *muy bueno* for all.

West Coast wonder

Don't set your sights on Baja California Sur's playtown of Cabo San Lucas, but instead head to San José del Cabo, on the very point of the peninsula where the Pacific meets the Sea of Cortés. The town itself is a lively mix of restaurants and stores, including a historic arts district with local galleries and artisan shops, perfect for strolling. You may even see a drowsy horse tethered to one of the cantinas patiently waiting to carry its rider home.

From here, head over to the desert foothills, to **Zadún Los Cabos, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve** (from $1,350 a night), for a luxe stay that ticks all the boxes.

For a start, the 87 guest rooms and 27 suites (plus residences and a swish villa) all have private infinity pools overlooking the sea. You'll also have the services of your own Tosoani (personal assistant).

Nestled within the desert foothills, the architecture is stunning, with dramatic, sculpture-like buildings that are aglow at night.

To decompress, access the serenity of the spa. The resort has teamed with Sensei Wellness, a brand based around the concept of "move, nourish and rest." The spa itself is a glorious tropical oasis, with a hydrotherapy pool ringed with palms. Take a well-being consultation, or indulge in sound baths or meditational sessions — perhaps even a nutritional reset. Sensei works hand in hand with the restaurants, with curated specific dishes just for this.

Be prepared to be tempted, though. Chef Jeffrey Rodriguez "does not follow recipes; he follows intuition" as per the blurb, and the results are delicious, from fresh seafood feasts to breakfasts of pancakes topped with syrup, fruit and popcorn. (Don't knock it till you try it.)

The resort also hosts an "Ambassadors of the Environment" program created by Jean-Michel Cousteau to promote ocean conservation. Biologists are on hand to lead desert hikes and educational outings to teach about the ecosystems.

The program includes a Ritz Kids club from 5 to 16, with specific age-angled activities like bird-watching, gardening, snorkeling and stargazing.

In that vein, new for this summer, Guardians of Baja invites kids to become "honorary guardians" of the ocean and desert through a mixture of storytelling and creative play.

But if there's one thing everyone in the family should do together, it's whale watching. December through April is the best time, when they migrate. Take Zadún's private expedition boat and, accompanied by a marine biologist, head out into the bay to get close to the magnificent humpbacks and watch them spout and breach. It's a joyous experience no one should miss.

East Coast energy

Just a quick three hour flight from NYC, boasting gorgeous turquoise waters and 14 miles of white sand beach, Cancún has become a well-trodden escape for those north of the border. While there's a spring break vibe to some of the beach area known as the hotel zone — here's looking at you, Señor Frog's — there are resorts where you can leave the raffia hats and bucket-sized margaritas behind and simply chill.

Paradisus Cancún (from $525 per night) is one. The bright white Mayan temple-inspired structure with a glass pyramid dome is a well-known landmark, sitting along the Caribbean Sea alongside the Nichupté Lagoon.

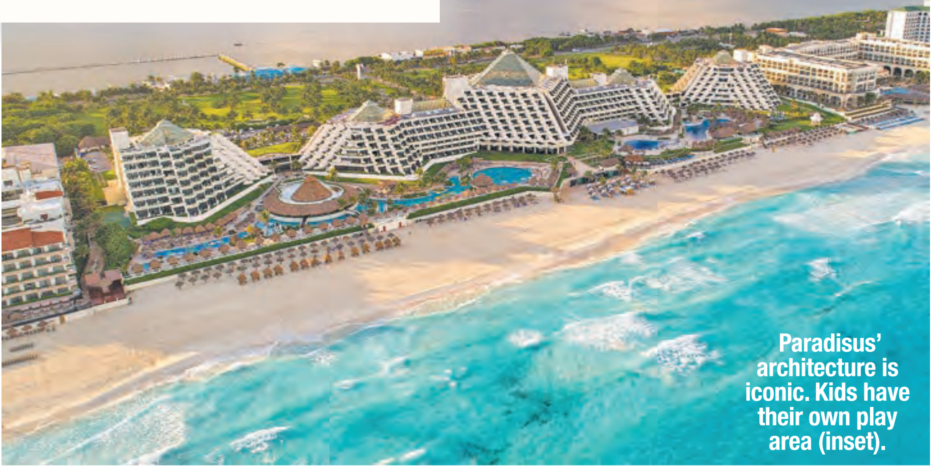
Built in 1990 and revamped into a Melia hotel in 2012, the hotel recently closed for a $50 million renovation, opening in April to the meme "the icon is back." It's more than a refresh — the resort's 773 redesigned suites are airy and calm with spacious balconies, and the resort has added new dining and family friendly amenities including a fun splash park, Aquazone, and Kidsdom kids club, with a playroom, crafts and even a special space for baby play.

One for the grandparents: Book a room in the Reserve (from $643 per night), an adults-only section on the end of the resort that comes with Bali beds on the beach and seafront dining at Santé, which serves up fresh salads and a catch of the day.

It would take you a while to experience all nine restaurants and seven bars, but it's recommended you try, since the resort is (hurrah!) all inclusive.

There are all sorts of activities on tap, from piñata parties, silent discos and circus acts for the kids, to a delicious wine tasting in the cellar for the adults. Sommelier Miguel Angel Serrano brings the experience to life.

Another trip for the grown ups: a sunset cruise from the harbor, featuring a saxophonist who serenades you through the bay, finished up with *that* riff from "Baker Street." Perfecto.



Paradisus' architecture is iconic. Kids have their own play area (inset).

Paradisus Cancún

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TASTES OF SUMMER

Area gems that kids will eat up

Yoshio Itagaki/WOKUNI Broadway

Getty Images for Empire State Realty Trust

Lessing's Hospitality

There's something fishy going on at Wokuni Broadway (top). You can get choc-full at Ghirardelli Chocolate & Ice Cream Shop (left). Singing wait staffers are stars in the making at Ellen's Stardust Diner.

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

NO disrespect to Serendipity — I only had its Cinnamon Fun sundae 100 times growing up in NYC — but now that I'm a parent myself, I'm hoping to introduce my son to broader culinary horizons that still bring the joy of that "footlong hot dog chased with a fun house mirror"-level magic.

Ahead, some diverse restaurants that will please tiny tasters.

Restaurant Le B.'s Young Gourmands Club menu

The idea for the Young Gourmands Club experience came after Restaurant Le B.'s chef and proprietor, Angie Mar, recounted her first fine-dining experience at age 8 at Seattle's Canlis to a friend.

Mar has replicated that epicurean wonder for pint-size patrons. Whether it's Le Burger Mignon, a smaller version of the haunt's beloved burger, or a banana split with flambéed bananas prepared tableside, expect big smiles and satisfied stomachs. Three courses costs $65 for children 12 and under.

283 W. 12th St.

Shriver's Salt Water Taffy and Fudge

Shriver's is a third-generation, family-owned institution purchased by four brothers in 1959. The reward for journeying some 130 miles from Midtown? Everything from chocolate nut and peanut banana fudge to mango, sea salt and caramel and peanut butter taffy.

One pound of assorted salt water taffy sets you back $17 and 1¼ pounds of gourmet fudge is $23.

852 Boardwalk at E. Ninth St., Ocean City, NJ

Ellen's Stardust Diner

This is one Times Square staple worth planning a trip around, thanks to the eatery's Stardusters, their singing servers.

Opened in 1987, the diner has had many waitstaff members continue on to a fruitful career in showbiz. Munchkins can order off the classic kids menu with cheeseburgers, spaghetti with butter, mac 'n' cheese and more (all $18), or opt for delights like challah French toast ($18), confetti pancakes ($20) or Stardust nachos ($18) off the main menu.

Oh! If your kid's attention span can swing it, a visit to Ellen's Stardust Theatre (a k a The Iridium) below the diner for its "Mamma Mia!"-inspired brunch featuring performances by Stardusters is well worth the $50 ticket price.

1650 Broadway

Saylor Beach House

Saylor Beach House, the newcomer of hospitality veteran and STK co-founder Celeste Fierro and pop singer Taylor Dayne, is all about the journey and destination.

Journey-wise, the restaurant has partnered with Yacht Hampton so clientele can boat from Sag Harbor directly to Greenport for lunch on Thursday through Sunday between noon and 4 p.m. ($75 per person each way.)

Once youngsters get over this wonderful way to arrive, they'll also be treated to excellent, age-appropriate fare like chicken fingers ($16) or pasta with butter, red sauce or Parmesan cheese ($16).

Grown-ups nosh on local oysters and the catch of the day accompanied by a limoncello spritz.

111 Main St., Greenport, LI

Wokuni Broadway

One Captain Kuni's Treasure Ship, coming right up. What's that, you ask? This special kids menu item is a ship packed with delectable bites for young palates, usually including a small chirashi bowl ($15). Or, children may enjoy the California tartar ($35), which features layered snow crab, ikura (salmon fish eggs) and avocado in a yuzu citrus sauce.

The even bigger draw is the monthly tuna cutting show, where a whole bluefin tuna is butchered in the dining room. The Japanese call it shokuiku ("food education"), and it's quite a spectacle.

Follow @wokuni_broadway for announcements of upcoming show dates, and be sure to note that you're bringing kids when booking so you get the best seats in the house. Also be sure to snag a picture with the "tuna man" doing his rounds and doling out samples along the way.

1359 Broadway

Horsefeathers

A Tarrytown stronghold since 1981, this Westchester eatery is well worth the 25-mile day trip from NYC, even if just for the heavenly Sleepy Hollow Skins ($16) — scrambled eggs combined with scooped-out potato skins, broccoli, cheddar and bacon.

You can almost feel the lore in the dining room as youngsters fill their bellies with hot dogs and fries ($11) or fried flounder with steamed broccoli ($14). After, you can pay a visit to the Old Dutch Church, a stone church that appears in Washington Irving's short story.

94 North Broadway, Tarrytown, NY

One Dine at One World Observatory

A meal that does double duty as a longer experience (RIP Mars 2112) is a blessing. So hop on the subway to the restaurant that crowns One World Trade Center.

You'll need an Observatory ticket (from $44) to eat at One Dine, which grants access to an interactive elevator ride depicting the rise of New York City.

Located on the 101st floor, kids will clamor for cavatappi mac 'n' cheese ($18) or chicken tenders and fries ($15) served with bragging rights of saying you dined at the highest point in the Western Hemisphere (1,776 feet).

117 West St.

Ghirardelli Chocolate & Ice Cream Shop

Pair the "dessert please" chorus with a trip to the Empire State Building at this superb chocolaterie at the base of the iconic skyscraper.

Here, larger-than-life sundaes anointed with toppings like Ghirardelli's signature hot fudge, whipped cream and chocolate squares await. We're also swooning for the new Dubai Style Chocolate Strawberry Bliss — sliced strawberries layered with Ghirardelli's handmade hot fudge, pistachio butter, kataifi, white chocolate and sea salt, finished with whipped cream and ultrafine chocolate chips.

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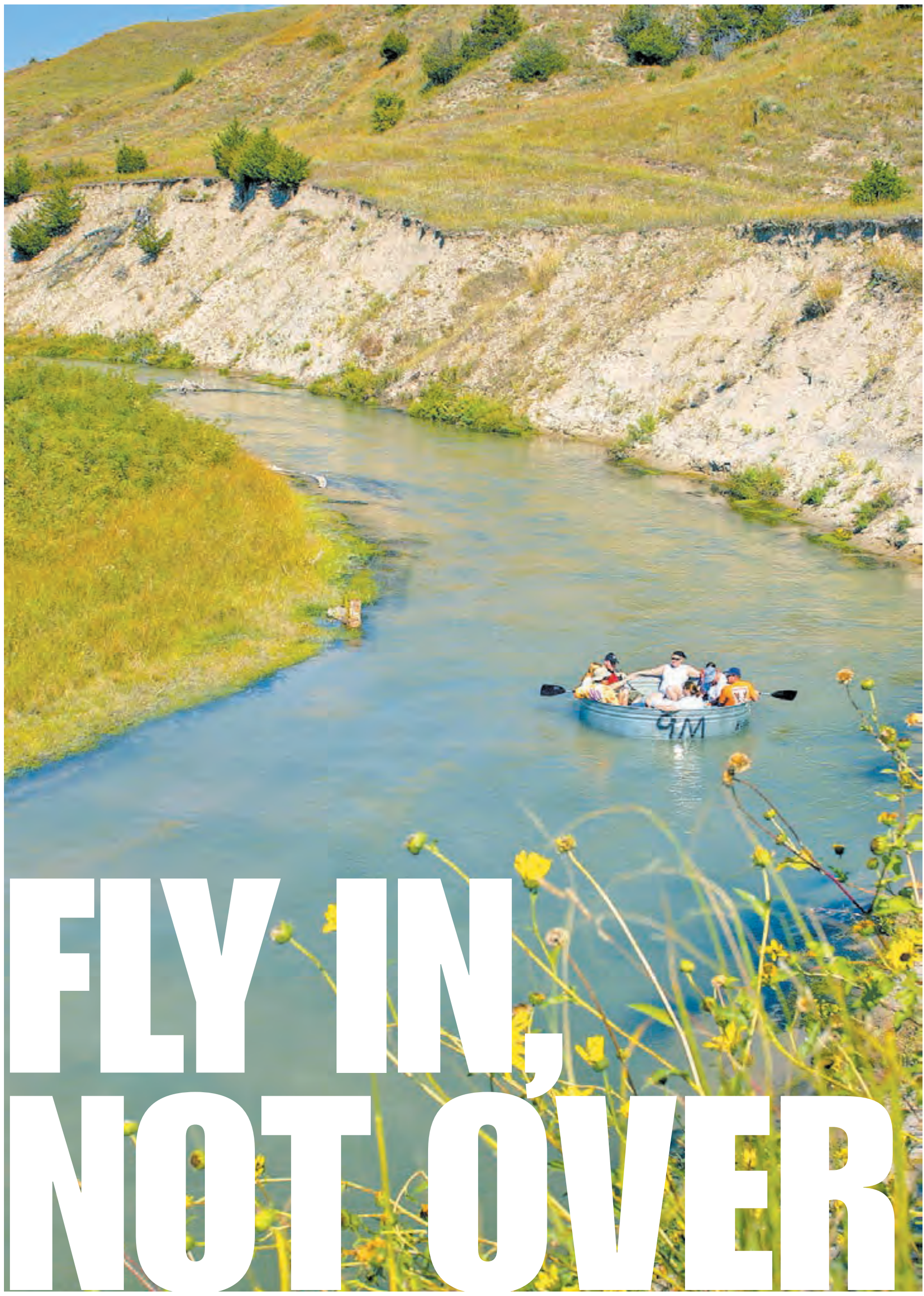

Nebraska Tourism

Visit Springfield Missouri

Meet Minneapolis

Travel Iowa

Midwest fun includes floating down a river in a stock tank in Nebraska; admiring sharks in Springfield, Mo. (left); roller coaster rides at Minnesota's Mall of America; or smelling the tulips in the "little Holland" that is Pella, Iowa.

FLY IN, NOT OVER

Skip the coasts — these Midwest getaways deliver big

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

FROM the splendors of rivers and lakes to loop-de-loop coasters, the Midwest has a lot to offer for families with young kids. Plus, your wallet will love middle America, too.

Ahead, locales where summer shines.

Valentine, Neb.

Enjoy the down-home fun of "tanking" along the Niobrara National Scenic River, an-only-in-Nebraska delight where families float along the river in repurposed livestock tanks. Then, recall the day's adventures at Bolo Beer Co. & Restaurant, for wood-fired pizzas and outdoor seating.

"We're only minutes from more than 50 fun things to do in Valentine and Cherry County," said Regina Osburn, Cherry County tourism director, who recommends hiking in Smith Falls State Park, home to Nebraska's tallest waterfall, and Cowboy Trail, where paved segments are stroller-friendly. "There's a slower pace here that gives families the kind of time together that can be hard to find elsewhere."

Book a stay at Niobrara Lodge (from $189 a night), a riverside perch ideal for those campfire memories.

Springfield, Mo.

Here, you've got the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium (glowing jellyfish! Swim with the sharks!), Dickerson Park Zoo and Route 66 attractions, as the Mother Road's birthplace, Springfield has several nostalgic stops, such as the Route 66 Car Museum.

Other Springfield highlights include Fantastic Caverns, where you can explore underground formations from a Jeep-drawn tram, and the science-centric Discovery Center of Springfield.

We're also all for an amble at Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden and Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, studded with enchanting walking paths, koi ponds, bridges and green space.

Take the crew to Black Sheep Burgers & Shakes to dip your salty fries in your Elvis or Strawberry Fields Forever shake, or St. George's Donuts, a 55-year-old institution where the apple fritters and cake doughnuts are divine.

Call it a night at Oasis Hotel & Convention Center, which has indoor and outdoor pools and rates hovering around $90 to $150 a night or Angler's Lodge Springfield, dog-friendly digs (from $159 a night) steps from those glowing jellyfish.

Des Moines; Pella, Iowa

Start with some city slicking for little feet in West Des Moines at Historic Valley Junction, a former railroad district turned bustling nabe with a weekly farmers market that's a veritable party (sometimes with car shows), boutiques and great eats, like the Tavern for scratch-made pizza or Black Cat Ice Cream for your scoop of, say, butterscotch malt or black raspberry.

Or, just down the street from the junction, dine at Either/Or, complete with a kids' menu, spacious outdoor area and playground. Other to-dos: the Science Center of Iowa, Blank Park Zoo and Pappajohn Sculpture Park, an open-air art experience everyone will love.

The stroller-friendly Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden (often hosting children's story times, concerts and hands-on workshops) is another great choice.

Stay at the centrally located Surety Hotel (from $199 a night), a short stroll to Principal Riverwalk and the Downtown Farmers' Market.

After a farewell slice at Fong's Pizza (try the crab rangoon or Thai chicken), drive about 45 miles to Pella for your country fix.

Known as "little Holland," let kids shake their wiggles out at Wonder Spelen Playground before checking into the Amsterdam Hotel (from $219 a night), a block from the historic downtown and home to Liberty Street Kitchen.

From there, the world is your stroopwafel: Try Central Park and Sunken Gardens with windmills and tulips, or pop into Nederlanders Tap & Golf for mini-golf glee with the little ones.

Another must-see is the Historical Village & Vermeer Windmill, an 18-building complex dedicated to Pella's history dating to the 1840s with a log cabin, blacksmith shop and a replica of a mid-19th century bakery.

Whatever you settle on, no visit to Pella is complete without a stop at the musically animated Klokkenspel with five performances daily or scarfing down Dutch pastries at Jaarsma Bakery or Vander Ploeg Bakery — ideally both.

Minneapolis

You could easily spend the whole day at the Mall of America in Bloomington, the largest mall in North America, with attractions like the 7-acre Nickelodeon Universe indoor theme park, Minnesota SeaLife aquarium, a climbing wall, mini-golf courses, FlyOver America ride and the Crayola Experience.

Back in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and adjacent St. Paul), urban adventures run the gamut from playing mini golf at the Walker Art Center's rooftop overlooking the 11-acre Minneapolis Sculpture Garden and the Science Museum of Minnesota to the Minnesota Children's Museum, or seeing a show at the Tony Award-winning Children's Theatre Company.

Dinner means an edible adventure at Animales BBQ, which provides a kids' play area, or the Le Petit Chef experience, an immersive dinner-as-theater experience. Retreat to the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis (from $108 a night), which has an indoor pool and is where Le Petit Chef is located.

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NANNY STATE

Here's where those in the know take the kids to unwind

Come for the playtime and the views at Pier 25. In Central Park, explore the obstacles in the Ancient Playground (below left) and float your model boat at Conservatory Water (below right).

Stephen Yang

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

UNTIL daycare starts in September, my husband and I have been making things work with the help of our wonderful part-time nanny, who is too humble to be named. What she will happily say, however, are these recommendations for endless activities and little-known gems around the city to delight our 13-month-old son.

She is always at the ready with suggestions from the Chelsea Waterside Park (featuring a 64-foot wooden slide in the shape of a pipefish, a fish species that calls the park waters home) to starchitect David Rockwell's Imagination Playground at Burling Slip.

It got me thinking: Nannies really do know best. So we tapped some other caretaking pros for their top spots to entertain their charges in and around New York City.

Conservatory Water, Central Park

At the entrance of Fifth Avenue and 72nd Street, you'll find the amazing Conservatory Water, a man-made pond "where you can actually sail model boats," said Anthony Santiago, a "manny" at Brooklyn Manny and Nanny, which serves families nationwide. "In addition, the large space and small hills make a great place" for kids to ride their bike or scooter.

ANTHONY SANTIAGO

It's free to visit, and there's a cafe on the grounds if you or your youngster is in need of sustenance.

Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, Yonkers

Betina Mele, founder of Caring Connections, a nanny and household placement agency connecting families with caregivers, calls this a "beautiful under-the-radar spot that feels like a hidden oasis."

BETINA MELE

Mele, who worked as a nanny for over 15 years in Westchester and NYC, likes the open areas for kids to explore and unique gardens that make it feel different from a typical park outing. "It's great for a slower-paced day with toddlers or younger kids," said Mele, whose agency is based in Yorktown, NY. She recommends visiting the free gardens in the morning or late afternoon for cooler temps and less crowds.

Christian Johnston

The Washington Post via Getty Images

Hex&Co

Santiago describes Hex&Co — with locations in Union Square, Morningside Heights and the Upper East side — as a great solution for kids who prefer more indoor activities. This board game cafe has "every game imaginable," he said, and great breakfast and lunch fare. Tabletop board game play starts at $15 per player with a discount for students Monday through Thursdays.

There's craft beer and cocktails on offer, too, if the daily parenting prescription calls for that.

Pier 25, Hudson River Park

Who can argue with views of sailboats, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island? Even cooler, this pier was specifically designed to house historic ships and the Lilac, America's oldest lighthouse tender, built in 1933, docks here. Throw in an 18-hole miniature golf course, sand volleyball courts and . . . wait, there's still more.

Mele appreciates that the park's playground, splash area and open spaces are all in one place so you don't have to schlep too far for more distraction, ahem, diversions. "It's right by the water, so it feels a bit calmer than other city playgrounds," said Mele. Her insider tip? Go to this free park earlier in the day before it gets crowded, and take note that there are bathrooms nearby, "which makes a big difference with younger children."

Old Westbury Gardens, Long Island

"A lot of people don't realize [Old Westbury Gardens offers] wonderful children's classes throughout the year," divulged Carly Caruso, account manager at Brooklyn Manny and Nanny, where she was formerly an NYC- and Long Island-based nanny. Expect everything from a "tiny gardeners" program to "Seasonal Sprouts: Nature Connects," a Lego-themed adventure.

Per Caruso, "it's one of the few places on Long Island that consistently feels calm and manageable crowd-wise, even during the summer," noting that the grounds are beautiful for walks, nature exploration and low-stimulation outings. Plus, for older kids, the Charles II-style mansion, a one-time family home completed in 1906, is well worth seeing too.

Admission is free for children 6 and under ($12 ages 7-17, $22 adults, $20 seniors).

Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, Oyster Bay

In her nannying years, this was one of Caruso's favorites.

"We would pack a blanket, grab snacks for a picnic and spend hours exploring the gardens and open fields," said Caruso. "It's peaceful, safe and rarely feels overcrowded, which makes it ideal for younger children and toddlers."

CARLY CARUSO

The kids she worked with loved talking about what they could see, smell and feel while walking through the flowers and greenery, "so it naturally encouraged sensory play and curiosity."

Access is free, but parking fees are collected daily from May 3 through Labor Day and other peak visiting times.

Ancient Playground, Central Park

For another Central Park showstopper, head to this oft overlooked spot for little ones. Santiago likes that this large hub has a range of obstacles to keep your kid entertained.

It's "the perfect park for playdates and to make new friends as it's tucked next to the Met," said Santiago of this free attraction. (The park's name and design elements like pyramids and a sundial tips its hat to the Met's Temple of Dendur.)

Plus, "there's always a food cart around to grab a snack after," he added.

Bear Mountain State Park, NY

Looking for an easy day trip from NYC, just 45 miles from Bloomingdale's? Between the small zoo, pool, carousel, trails and wide open space, this park is such an underrated locale for a full summer day with kids.

There's a $10 vehicle entry fee and the pool costs $5 per person, while the Trailside Museum and Zoo has a suggested donation of $1 per person.

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DISCONNECT AND RECONNECT

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Lindblad Expedition boats can get you off the screens and into immersive adventures in the Galapagos (clockwise from left). It doesn't get much more remote than Sal Salis in Australia. The Arctic holds wonders and adventures that are educational and inspiring.

Where to find a digital detox to promote togetherness

By CHRISTOPHER CAMERON

IN Mark Twain's travelogue "The Innocents Abroad," he writes that "broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things can not be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

But vegetate we do, in front of soul-dulling screens. It seems self-evident that we are, increasingly, less broad minded, wholesome and charitable as a result.

Kids get it worst of all, since nothing sucks the wonder out of this big weird world quite like an iPad loaded with addictive apps.

In an age of "brainrot" social media, mean-spirited politics and 10-year-olds who have never been pegged in the face by a dodgeball, travel isn't just a privilege; it's an antidote.

A growing subculture of resorts are now encouraging their guests to log off when they check in. We surveyed Virtuoso's top travel advisers for destinations, activities and resorts guaranteed to snap your domestic unit back into the very real world.

A plethora of adventures await at Paws Up Montana.

Paws Up Montana

Ranch dressing

Go West young man — thanks to shows like "Yellowstone" and the pandemic boom in domestic travel, there are plenty of family friendly ranch-style resorts to choose from.

"We love dude ranches for family travel as they offer a huge variety of outdoor activities for all ages and stages," said Kiki Humes, a senior travel adviser at Ciao Bambino! "These properties offer kids the opportunity to connect and play with other kids their age, learn something new and be adventurous without even thinking about their phones or iPads."

What will your family be doing instead of scrolling? How about fishing, horseback riding, archery, rafting and mountain biking in summer. Wintertime gives you skiing, snowshoeing, dog-sledding, ice-fishing or just sitting around a roaring fire.

Humes recommends Paws Up Montana, a two Michelin-key escape set on 37,000 acres of wilderness in Big Sky country, just 40 minutes from Missoula. Accommodations range from timber homes to safari-style tents. They also have a menu of 70 adventures for the fam to experience, and a Kids Adventure Club promises no two days alike. From $3,075 with tax.

Erudition by expedition

One of the best, most family-friendly ways to soak up a few facts is to board an expedition yacht. Smaller and smarter, these nimble expedition cruises go where megavessels daren't, exploring environments with the guidance of a university credentialed know-it-all.

"It's an early wake-up," said Jessica Griscavage, founder of Runway Travel, of a typical expedition to the Galapagos or Arctic. "You get in your Zodiac, and explore one of the islands. You go looking for animals and birds. You come back for lunch, and then you're out on another expedition. Every night you gather with your naturalist to talk about your day. There's a huge education factor to it."

Griscavage recommends Lindblad Expeditions for families. It partners with the National Geographic Society, which supplies their ships with explorers and scientists. (A 10-day Galapagos sailing starts at $6,370 per person; or head to Greenland on an eight-day adventure starting at $7,400 per person.)

With no kids clubs, no onboard entertainment and (hopefully) a few service outages, you'll have plenty of time to study the wildlife, and each other.

The nuclear option

There are roughly 14,500 active satellites in Earth's orbit. If your kid wants to log on, they'll find a way.

"Everywhere in the world, I promise you, we can get you Wi-Fi," said Eli Wagner, founder of Wagner Bespoke Travel. Wagner suggests that families worry less about connectivity and more about engaging destinations. That means villa rentals along the fish-rich waters of Fiji, resort stays in the jungles of Central America and ski trips to the Dolomites.

Still, extreme cases call for extreme solutions. This isn't for the faint of heart, but we promise results.

First, fly to Australia. Next you'll face a not insubstantial domestic flight to Perth. Then, board yet another air shuttle north to remote Learmonth Airport.

Now, it's a drive into the Outback where wild emus poke their heads through pub doors before arriving at renowned Ningaloo Reef and its only 5-star stay, Sal Salis, a Luxury Lodges of Australia member. (Rates from roughly $2,000 per night.)

This all-inclusive tented camp (for ages 10 and up), just steps from the Indian Ocean and a luscious reef, offers no Wi-Fi. And if you think there's cell service here, you're dreamin'.

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Mid Island Day Camp

Leigh Smith

One River School

Try every sport imaginable at Mid-Island Day Camp (clockwise from left). Engineer a robot at Brooklyn Robot Foundry Summer Circuits. Budding artists will thrive at One River School.

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

ONCE upon a time, camp meant coming home at the end of the day with a friendship bracelet and a sunburn. Now, campers are returning home with punch lines, robots they programmed and art projects.

Ahead, some unique camp offerings for your pint-size people in and around NYC.

Camp Kids 'N Comedy at Gotham Comedy Club

Celebrating 30 years as a New York comedy institution, Kids 'N Comedy (208 W. 23rd St.) provides a summer camp for budding Seinfelds ages 10 to 18.

During a two-week session, your youngster will learn everything from joke writing to improv to stage presence. There's a live graduation show at Gotham Comedy Club.

Each session costs $1,600.

One River School Weekly Camps

Have a promising artist on your hands? Enroll them in One River School's weeklong camps serving ages 5 through 18. There are 11 locations in the tristate area, starting at $365.

Class topics include street art, animation, fashion, manga and digital art, with all lessons taught by professional artists and designers, capped off with a gallery-style student exhibition. Camps run from June 22 to Aug. 28.

Adaptive Sports Foundation Camps

The Adaptive Sports Foundation will host two camps this summer in the bucolic Catskills town of Windham for people of all ages with physical, cognitive and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

First, there's the Adaptive Skateboard Camp (from $125 for a single-day session, on July 11, July 25, Aug. 8 and Sept. 26), where campers will learn to board under the counsel of pro-level instructors.

Or, check out the foundation's multisport camp (Aug. 13-16) for hiking, kayaking, soccer, basketball, Wiffle ball, golf and mountain biking, with adaptive equipment available.

The four-day jaunt ($275; a weekend is $125) is capped off with a trip to Rhuelmann's Alpaca Farm and a barbecue.

Brooklyn Robot Foundry Summer Circuits

Welcome to the camp for machine masterminds where kids can make a new robot to take home every day. A weeklong session runs from $400 to $975, with many locations in the tristate area. Single days for around $200 are also available.

Camps are screenfree, hands-on bliss, complete with themes such as "Monster Mayhem," "Snack Attack," "Swamp Stomp" and "Construction Junction." The programs, for kindergarteners through fifth graders, run June 29 through Sept. 4, if you need camp for the final weeks of summer.

Mid-Island Day Camp

This Long Island reprieve (at 75 Colonial Springs Rd., Wheatley Heights) boasts an impressive roster of sports — lacrosse, tennis and archery, to name a few — instructional and recreational swim time and specialty programming, such as robotics, cooking and outdoor adventure classes.

There's also yoga, karate, ceramics, climbing ropes courses, trapeze and circus arts, an "Ultimate Ninja Warrior" course and theater productions aplenty. All this and more from $5,250 for day-camp programs of four to eight weeks for young'uns from 6 weeks old and 10th graders.

Inside Broadway's Summer Stock Junior

With rehearsals fittingly taking place in Midtown Manhattan (520 Eighth Ave.), this musical theater camp runs from Aug. 3 to 14 for kids 8 through 18 who live and breathe all things performance arts.

Guys and dolls (pun intended) will work with professional directors, choreographers and musicians to hone their craft on either "The Lion King Jr." (ages 8-13; currently waitlisted) or "Beetlejuice Jr." (ages 13-18).

Bonus: Little Shakespeares will participate in a Q&A with a Broadway actor and get a matinee ticket to "& Juliet," as well as star in their own show at the camp's final showcase at the Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater.

The two-week sessions cost $850.

Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation Summer Camp

Founded by USA Gymnastics Hall of Famer Wendy Hilliard, the foundation at the Harlem Armory (40 W. 143rd St.) is now entering its 30th year.

This summer, sessions will run from July 6 to 31 and give participants lessons in rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, as well as plenty of trampoline and tumbling time. For athletes 6 through 17, early dropoff and late pickup is available.

Beyond gymnastics, campers can look forward to enrichment activities such as guest speakers and dance classes, plus rock climbing, games and more.

Leap in for $424 for single-week enrollment.

Northport Adventure Camp

Serving 18-month-olds through eighth graders, Northport Adventure Camp (106 Vernon Valley Rd., East Northport, LI) bills itself as the only camp where all six weeks (from $750 per week) are dedicated to America's semiquincentennial. It also is staffed entirely by educators, not counselors.

Each week celebrates America's 250th birthday in a new way — think Frontier Camp week, where campers learn to sew, churn butter, garden and tie knots, or a five-day stretch of Rough Riders Camp that puts the spotlight on Teddy Roosevelt, arrow making, geography and playing with horses.

Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation

Flip and tumble at the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation Summer Camp.

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BATTER UP

Take them out to the ball park for a classic summer evening

New York Mets

Brooklyn Cyclones

Drew Wohl

Getty Images

Run the bases with Mr. and Mrs. Met (clockwise from top left) at Shea Stadium, or meet Sandy the Seagull at a Brooklyn Cyclones game. Take a tram ride at Fairfield Properties Ball Park, home of the Long Island Ducks. Try and snag an Aaron Judge autograph at Yankee Stadium.

By LAMBETH HOCHWALD

NO matter which baseball team you love the most, there's nothing better than spending the day with your family at a ballpark. Here's what awaits at five major- and minor-league stadiums in or around the Big Apple.

Run the bases

Grab a seat at a New York Boulders game in Pomona, NY, for nine innings of action while snacking on such Clover Stadium specialties as shave ice and funnel cakes. Book a Sunday home fixture and your kids will get to run the bases postgame, get some player autographs and catch a ball on the field.

And, if your kids get antsy, they can play a round of mini-golf at BoulderBirdies, located in right field. For more information, visit NYBoulders.com.

Stay for the fireworks

One of the biggest draws at a Long Island Ducks game this season is the 13 scheduled postgame fireworks.

Held at Fairfield Properties Ballpark in Central Islip in honor of America's 250th birthday, the schedule includes three consecutive shows July 2-4.

Your kids will also have a blast meeting QuackerJack, the team mascot, or heading straight to the bouncy house and slides at the stadium's Fun Zone.

Salute to history

There's so much to do at Yankee Stadium besides watching Aaron Judge come up to bat.

The whole family will want to sample Apple Pie Nachos, one of this season's viral stadium treats, and pop into the New York Yankees Museum, with its incredible collection of artifacts from Yankee legends like Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and Lou Gehrig.

For a break between innings, head to the Kids Clubhouse, a fully shaded, interactive play field where your kids can have fun — and you won't miss a minute of the action on the diamond thanks to the TV monitors broadcasting the game throughout the space.

Get close to the action

Every baseball fan in the family is guaranteed to feel super close to every crack of the bat at a Brooklyn Cyclones game on the Coney Island boardwalk.

No matter who this team is playing, it's all about having fun here, with T-shirt tosses, themed events like Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Day and "Paw Patrol" guest appearances, and the thrill of getting to run the bases at the end of every Sunday game.

Join the club

It's always a great time at a Mets game, but, on Sundays, families will have a ball when they flock to Citi Field for Family Sundays.

Plan to arrive at Mets Plaza a few hours before the first pitch and settle in for kid-focused music, games and activities.

Once you sign up for membership in the free Kids Club, your kids will get a special lanyard and ID, plus plenty of opportunities to meet fave mascots Mr. and Mrs. Met and maybe even run the bases.

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NEW YORK POST

FALL FUN GUIDE

COMING SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

« **INSIDE** See the Brooklyn Cyclones at Coney Island's boardwalk

Family Fun

PICTURE THIS

Show your kid's best side while having fun at Insta-worthy locations

By JORDI LIPPE-MCGRAW

If your Instagram feed is still hibernating in winter's last chill, it's time to wake it up with some seriously adorable kid-centric content. We're talking about the kind of posts that rack up likes faster than a group of tweens chasing down an ice cream truck.

This season is all about stepping out of the gray and into Technicolor — think blooms, giggles and all the muddy puddles in between.

So, grab the camera and your little adventurers, and get ready to make your followers wish they were tagging along. We've got the inside scoop on how to sprinkle your spring with Insta-worthy moments. Because, let's face it, if you didn't post it, did spring even happen?

Cruise control

Sail through NYC's waters on the Classic Harbor Line's Statue and Skyline cruise, a

See **INSTAGRAM** *on Page 38*

« **INSIDE** Hit the city's sweet spots for Halloween treats, p. 46

Fall Family Fun

SQUASH IT ALL IN

There's plenty of fun at these pumpkin patches that go beyond picking

By PERRI ORMONT BLUMBERG

TAKE a kid pumpkin picking and after 20 or so glorious minutes of pure delight, they will inevitably ask "now what?" Well, not at these destinations, where the fun includes farm stands, corn mazes and more.

Here's our favorite fall farm excursions that we promise will keep kids entertained for endless hours.

Wilkens Fruit & Fir Farm, Yorktown Heights, NY

Head about an hour north to our neighbor in Westchester to find this harvest haven, where pumpkin picking is scheduled to open tomorrow and run through Oct. 31.

Family-owned and operated for over 100 years, this farm sprawls some 180 acres and gives visitors a blissful day of pumpkin picking, along with corn maze exploration and farmers market perusing.

Mom and dad can buy fruit pies, fresh produce, honey and maple syrup for an autumnal feast back at home and treat their kids (OK, and themselves) to sublime apple cider doughnuts. Plus, the original cider mill still churns out fresh apple cider, so you'll definitely want to swill on hot or cold cider by the cup during your farmers market sweep.

Greg's Great Pumpkin Patch, Greenwood Park Beer Garden

In BK? Enjoy free admission to this South Slope complex that houses an indoor/outdoor beer garden, restaurant, bar and event space in a one-time gas station and mechanic shop.

From tomorrow through Halloween, Greg's Great Pumpkin Patch will take over some of the 13,000-square-foot space, making it a family-friendly destination complete with a large assortment of pumpkins, gourds and Halloween-themed decorations aplenty. Also on offer: daily pumpkin painting for kids and adults alike.

Don't miss the photo ops, either,

See **PUMPKINS** *on Page 40*

Wilkens Fruit & Fir Farm has 180 gourd-filled acres. Greenwood Park Beer Garden in Brooklyn features Greg's Great Pumpkin Patch (inset left).

Mohammed Elshamy; Greg's Trees (inset)

To advertise, please contact **DAVID ROSENTHAL** at **drosenthal@nypost.com**

STAY AND PLAY

Find vacation vibes without leaving home

By APRIL HARDWICK

IF you're concerned about rising travel costs, flight delays and crowds, get geared up for the ultimate staycation instead. Grab some goodies and stay local, whether with a backyard play zone or must-have indoor activities for rainy days. Here's some essentials to get you summer-ready.

1
Melissa & Doug

3
100
FUN THINGS TO DO
With a stick

12
eeBoo
EARLY LEARNER
FARM
COLORING BOOK
16

11
FIFA WORLD CUP 26
FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 CAN MEX USA

10
Supergoop!
PLAY
SUNNY CITRUS
SPF 50

6
BAUBLE BAR

1. Bring the BBQ indoors with a Flip & Fry Grill Play Set that elevates pretend play by using color-changing technology. Just add water and watch burgers, chicken tenders and fries become plate-ready. $38 at MelissaAndDoug.com

2. Kick-start the Fourth of July festivities with some patriotic play using this soft neoprene water-friendly football. $15 at BigMouthInc.com

3. Need ideas for creative play options without all the fuss? Check out the "100 Fun Things To Do" clip-on booklets. $12 at UncommonGoods.com

4. Stay cool and calm knowing your family is safe under the AnchorOne wind-resistant umbrella kit. $135 at ShopAnchorWorks.com

5. Hop on the Quip mini cruiser skateboard for easy transportation that won't weigh you down. Available in 22.5- or 27-inch lengths. From $36 at Retrospec.com

6. When the party moves indoors, gather a circle of friends and create meaningful bracelets together. Party Bead Kit, $78 at BaubleBar.com

7. Take the party tunes wherever you go using JBL's Clip 5 waterproof speaker. Customize it with your favorite photo, text, color or sticker art. From $79.95 at JBL.com

8. Wash away the rainy-day blues by building your own kinetic SolarFlower, and when the sun returns, watch it spin and come to life, powered by the sun's rays. $24.95 at ThamesAndKosmos.com

9. Get cozy camping under the stars while snuggled up in the Redwood sleeping bag, which travels easily with a detachable crossbody strap ($105). Or pack it or anything else in the cute Rockaway duffel ($123). StateBags.com

10. Before you have fun in the sun, protect your skin with a refreshing SPF 50 body mist that is water- and sweat-resistant. $18 at Supergoop.com

11. FIFA fever is real, so keep your future soccer stars scoring well past the World Cup wrap-up. The FIFA Arcade Soccer Roundabout is suitable for indoor and outdoor use. $179 at SamsClub.com

12. Let your little artist enjoy farm life while developing fine motor skills. "Farm Coloring Book," $10 at Eeboo.com

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marts recover

Sharp gains for Big Tech companies helped the Nasdaq surge nearly 500 points, or 1.9%, on Thursday as stocks erased most of their losses from a day earlier to notch weekly gains. Markets are closed on Friday in observance of Juneteenth.

SpaceX drops

Shares of Elon Musk's SpaceX fell for the second straight session, sliding more than 3% to $185, as analysts pointed to profit-taking. The stock is still up 37% from its IPO price.

Clock ticking

Take-Two Interactive said pre-orders for its hotly anticipated "Grand Theft Auto VI" begin June 25 on digital storefronts and at select retailers. The game is set to be released Nov. 19.

VW overhaul

Volkswagen said it is pushing ahead with sweeping restructuring plans including job cuts as rising geopolitical tensions, intense competition and growing trade barriers burden the industry.

Flu-shot boost

Moderna shares rose 3.5% after an advisory committee voted to recommend the Food and Drug Administration approve the biotech's proposed new flu shot for people 50 and older.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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'AMODEI-TENTE' BID

Anthropic offers concessions to end AI 'ban'

By THOMAS BARRABI

Anthropic executives are pledging to work more closely with the White House in a proposal to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick as they scramble to resolve security concerns that triggered a crackdown on its powerful "Mythos" and "Fable" AI models, The Post has learned.

The ongoing remediation talks have included a pledge by Anthropic to improve communication with the Trump administration and resolve any security concerns more quickly going forward, a source familiar with the situation said Thursday.

Talks between Anthropic and Trump officials are progressing well, the source added, though an exact timetable for a permanent fix remains unclear.

Negotiations still on

As of Thursday, Anthropic co-founder Tom Brown, the company's chief compute officer, and Sarah Heck, its public policy head, are taking a leading role in negotiations with Trump administration officials, a second source with knowledge of the situation said.

Representatives for Anthropic and the Commerce Department didn't respond for comment.

Anthropic first dispatched several top officials to Washington, DC, late last week after the Trump administration slapped export controls on "Mythos" and "Fable."

The crackdown came after Amazon CEO Andy Jassy warned the administration that researchers had found evidence it was possible to bypass their safety guardrails.

Anthropic opted to pull the models entirely, claiming it was the only way to comply with the export controls.

The spat emerged as a key topic at the G7 Summit in France. President Trump said talks with Anthropic were "going fine" but didn't provide details, while Anthropic boss Dario Amodei urged world leaders to "resist the temptation to splinter" in their approaches to AI regulation.

"Both parties are working quickly to get this resolved," an Anthropic spokesperson said earlier this week. "This is part of our ongoing commitment to working alongside the administration toward our shared goal of protecting US critical infrastructure and the US lead in cyber defense."

Stakes high pre-IPO

Ironically, the White House's crackdown on Anthropic came just days after Amodei publicly argued that the US government should have the authority to shut down frontier AI models it considered too dangerous.

As The Post reported earlier this week, White House officials were irked that Anthropic and Amodei downplayed the safety flaw as a "narrow" problem, despite spending the last few years warning of potential AI catastrophe.

A senior administration official said the White House had received warnings from "nearly half a dozen" companies besides Amazon before it took action.

"Had Anthropic taken it seriously and, rather than dismissing it as isolated, moved to fix or pause access, this never would have happened," the US official said.

Stakes are high for Anthropic, which earlier this month confidentially filed paperwork to go public. The company was recently valued at $965 billion.

tbarrabi@nypost.com

Let's make a digital deal

ANTHROPIC
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Anthropic, helmed by Dario Amodei (left), has floated a proposal to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick (right) to work more closely with the White House to settle security concerns that led to a ban on exporting its "Mythos" and "Fable" AI models.

Reuters, Shutterstock

Jobless claims & jobs growth slacken

The number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits fell last week, but remained at slightly higher levels, suggesting some moderation in the pace of job growth in June.

Economists largely shrugged off the report from the Labor Department on Thursday, with some pointing out that the recent elevation in claims was likely due to seasonal distortions related to the end of the school year.

They viewed the labor market as stable enough for the Federal Reserve to focus on stamping out inflation, stoked by the Iran war.

The US central bank on Wednesday kept its benchmark overnight interest rate in the 3.5%-3.75% range, but updated quarterly projections showed policymakers expected to raise borrowing costs this year.

"We don't expect claims to trend consistently higher from here," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead US economist at Oxford Economics.

"And despite the bounce off the recent lows, the level of initial claims is still consistent with a broad range of labor market indicators that show the job market has improved but isn't overheating. That will allow the Fed to keep policy on hold while it waits for inflation to come down." *Reuters*

Warsh's Wall St. whiplash

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh shocked Wall Street this week by delivering one of the most hawkish messages investors have heard in months, prompting traders to rapidly abandon expectations for interest-rate cuts and begin pricing in the possibility of rate hikes before year-end.

The dramatic shift in market sentiment came after Warsh (right) and the Federal Open Market Committee left rates unchanged but signaled that inflation remains its top concern despite signs of slowing economic growth.

The message was reinforced by former Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan, who warned that policymakers may need to raise rates as soon as September if inflation fails to cool over the summer.

"If inflation prints don't cool between now and we get to September, I actually think the balance of risks suggests it would be wise to take some action, either in September or in the fall," Kaplan, now vice chairman at Goldman Sachs, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television.

"The Fed has made it clear that inflation remains its primary concern, and if the next few inflation reports fail to show meaningful improvement, September is absolutely in play," Scott Martin, of Kingsview Wealth Management, told The Post. *Ariel Zilber*

Heat on 2 banks over Iran

The Justice Department is reportedly looking into JPMorgan and Citigroup as part of an investigation into Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's trail of money through the US.

Amid a broader effort to crack down on money laundering and corruption, officials launched a probe into how Khamenei has managed to build up a massive investment portfolio with exposure to Wall Street banks, Bloomberg reported, citing anonymous officials.

Investigators are examining large money movements between firms overseen by Khamenei — and whether US financial institutions, including JPMorgan and Citi, helped facilitate those transactions, according to the report.

The DOJ and Citi declined to comment. JPMorgan did not respond for comment.

Along with US banks, European and Middle Eastern lenders are reportedly facing scrutiny in the probe. Global brands that received payments from the network, like Hilton Worldwide Holdings, are too.

That's because the Iranian leader's network — which includes everything from Persian Gulf shipping to British luxury property — has routed its funds through banks in the UK, Liechtenstein and the United Arab Emirates, Bloomberg reported. *Taylor Herzlich*

Pharm slap vs. grocer

The operator of Stop & Shop, Giant, Hannaford and Food Lion agreed to pay $40 million to settle claims it reported inflated prescription prices to federal healthcare programs — which led the government to pay higher reimbursements than it should have.

The in-store pharmacies managed by Ahold Delhaize USA of Quincy, Mass., reported the higher, pre-discount prices when billing Medicare Part D, Medicaid and TRICARE, the Justice Department alleged.

Taylor Herzlich

Al Ja'*zero*' ethics

Honcho finger wag as reporter 'backs' protesters

By JAMES FRANEY

GENEVA — The boss of Al Jazeera English warned staffers to avoid looking like they're participating in political protests — just hours after one of the network's reporters appeared to join a march calling for Israel to be kicked out of the Eurovision talent contest, The Post has learned.

Journalists at the Qatar-backed news outlet — long accused of being a "Hamas mouthpiece" by Israeli leaders — received the memo last month after reporter Charlie Angela broadcast a segment from a 2,000-strong march in Vienna calling for Israeli singer Noam Bettan to be kicked out of Eurovision.

In Angela's report, hard-left demonstrators were seen carrying placards with slogans such as "no platform for Zionism and occupation!" while wearing Palestinian keffiyehs.

Don't let the bias show

Al Jazeera's Charlie Angela covers a recent anti-Israel protest in Vienna and appears to march with demon-strators, spurring a network memo asserting reporters shouldn't take part in events they cover.

AJEnglish/X

Angela — who initially stood in front of the passing demonstrators as she reported that they were accusing Eurovision "of normalizing war crimes by allowing Israel to participate in the competition" — began to walk alongside them after a few seconds.

As Angela continued to report, she continued to walk with the protesters for about 20 seconds before stopping again about halfway through the segment, which was posted on X on May 16.

A few hours later, Ibrahim Helal, news director for Al Jazeera's English division, fired off a memo to staffers, a screenshot of which was exclusively obtained by The Post.

"It is fine for correspondents to move through demonstrations, and speak to participants if needed. However, we should NEVER appear to march as participants ourselves," Helal wrote. "Walking in front of, or in the middle of, a march in a way that makes us look part of it is not acceptable."

The memo didn't single out Angela's report, which initially sparked confusion, according to sources.

"We had no idea what it was about," an Al Jazeera veteran told The Post. "But the two top stories at the time were the Israel-Iran war and the Ebola outbreak. We knew instinctively it wasn't going to be a protest about Ebola that Helal was talking about given all the discussion regarding Israel being in the Eurovision Song Contest."

Al Jazeera didn't respond to a request for comment.

Neiman flagship sinks

The landmark Dallas Neiman Marcus flagship is closing its doors after more than a century on Sept. 30 — laying off 67 employees in the luxury retailer's hometown.

The layoffs were disclosed in a government filing by parent company Saks Global — which filed for bankruptcy protection in January.

The positions being eliminated include sales associates, tailors and employees of the retailer's posh restaurant, Zodiac Room.

The nine-story Renaissance Revival tower — which first opened in 1914 — employed more than 200 workers in better times, according to former employees.

The fact that it's whittled down to 67, said one veteran, is a "reflection of the lack of inventory, lack of [customer] traffic and the realization the store wasn't worthy of further investment." *Lisa Fickenscher*

Qantas longest flight

Qantas Airways plans to launch the world's longest direct flight next year, a service of up to 22 hours nonstop between London and Sydney.

The Sydney-based airline on Thursday unveiled the first of its specially modified Airbus A350-1000 jets that will regularly make the 10,573-mile journey from October next year. Qantas plans to start selling tickets in February.

The flights between cities on opposite sides of the world are expected to take between 19 and 22 hours.

The current longest regularly scheduled direct flight is Singapore Airlines' route between its city-state base and New York City. The distance of 9,537 miles is flown in under 19 hours.

The modified Airbus jets can carry 238 passengers, with 140 of those in economy class. *AP*

LISA COOK
Accused of mortgage fraud.

Fed gov defense at $1.2M

Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook, who is fighting an effort by President Trump to fire her over mortgage-fraud allegations she says are untrue, disclosed on Thursday extensive payments associated with her legal case as well as payments made on her behalf for security work.

Cook reported almost $1.2 million in legal services payments as her case has made its way up to the Supreme Court, in a filing made public by the US Office of Government Ethics.

The filing listed legal services payments on Cook's behalf totaling $696,346 from the State Democracy Defenders Fund and $477,951 from Contina Impact.

The filing also noted Contina Impact paid $143,908 for "security services," and that three personal friends of Cook also made contributions on the Fed governor's behalf for security work.

A ruling is expected by the end of this month. *Reuters*

'M&M'ake 'em healthy

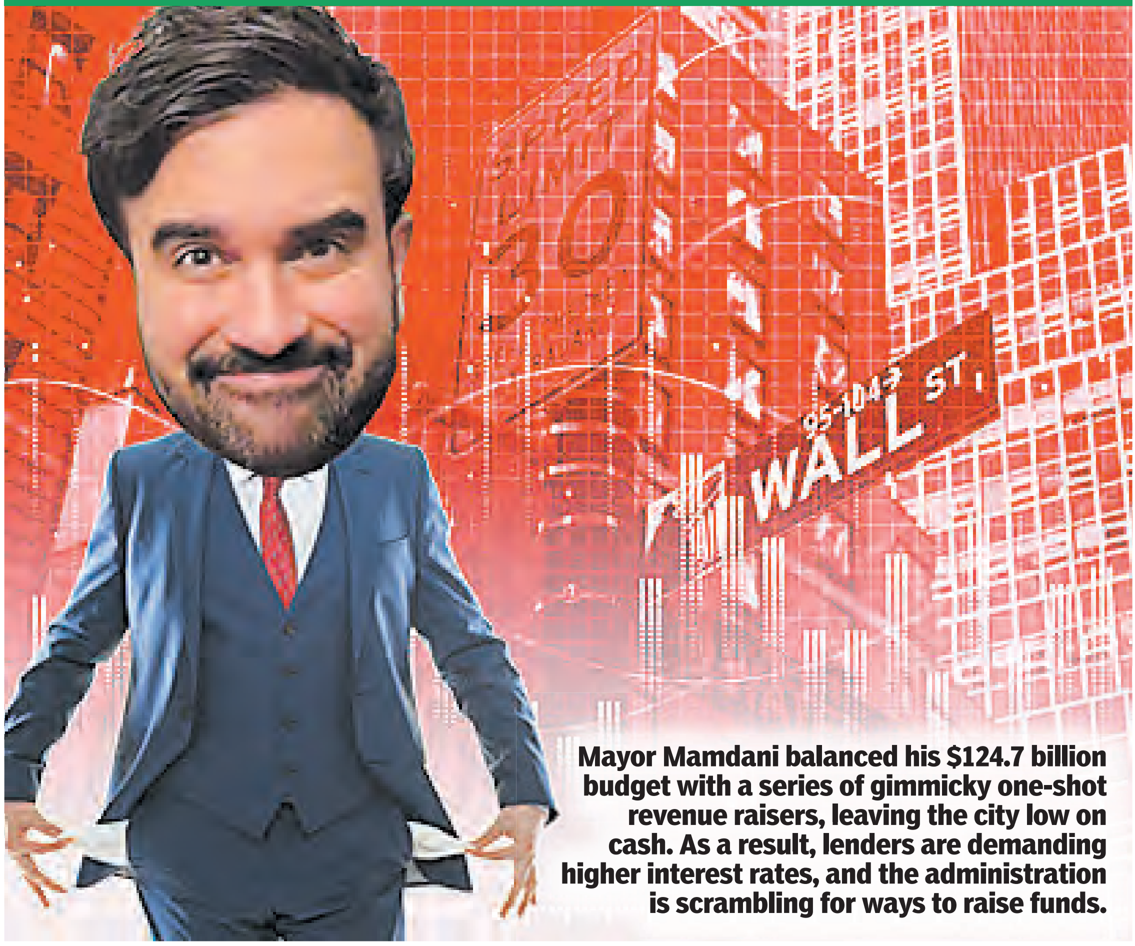
Candymaker Mars is spending millions to give its M&M's a "Make America Healthy Again" makeover.

M&M's will mark a milestone in its 85-year history in August, debuting a version made without artificial dyes.

However, the new candy will be missing two of six colors: brown and blue, which Mars has struggled to develop using natural ingredients, The Wall Street Journal reported. The revamped M&M's will be sold on Amazon. *Dow Jones*

ZO's NYC IN THE RED

Muni cash crunch



Mayor Mamdani balanced his $124.7 billion budget with a series of gimmicky one-shot revenue raisers, leaving the city low on cash. As a result, lenders are demanding higher interest rates, and the administration is scrambling for ways to raise funds.

Gil Fontimayor / NY Post Design

Paying the price for mayor's bad 'Marx'

On the money
CHARLES GASPARINO

MAYOR **Mamdani**'s socialist dream for New York City is facing a wakeup call — in the form of a cash crunch and spiraling borrowing costs from investors who are increasingly alarmed over his Marxist experiments, On The Money has learned.

Mamdani — who has proclaimed that he will "replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism" — balanced his $124.7 billion annual budget as required by New York law with a series of gimmicks — so-called one-shot revenue raisers that included delaying some pension payments.

The result, On The Money has learned, includes a looming cash shortage that has been signaled by City Comptroller **Mark Levine**. According to **Melissa Russo** of NBC 4, the amount of money the city has on hand is alarmingly low and risks drying up altogether come November.

Rising interest rates

Wall Street is getting nervous — increasingly so about what Mamdani is looking to accomplish and how. Accordingly, it continues to demand higher interest rates on debt. That's the case not only with long-term debt, but also the usually super-safe short-term variety.

My municipal-market sources confirm the squeeze. Since the beginning of the year when Mamdani took office, the so-called "spread," or difference between triple-A short-term bonds and those issued by NYC with a maturity of one year, has jumped nearly 20%.

That skittishness is also reflected in the 13.7% spike in longer-dated 10-year debt, the so-called risk premium investors are demanding to finance all that collectivist warmth.

And it may be why the mayor's office isn't tapping short-term borrowing markets to make up for the looming cash deficit, Wall Street analysts tell On The Money. Instead, as Russo has reported, City Hall has played with delaying payments to nonprofits to ride out the storm and God knows what else as it scrambles for funds.

A City Hall rep didn't respond to a request for comment.

True, this does happen from time to time with big, profitable companies who tap short-term borrowing markets to keep the lights on and paychecks flowing until revenues start to perk up. But NYC isn't a big profitable company; its budget is growing to pay for Mamdani's socialist dreams.

Richard Farley has a particularly firm grasp of the city's fiscal problems, and Gotham could be heading toward financial Armageddon, he warns. He's a Wall Street lawyer who specializes in debt, and a historian of the city's fiscal crisis of the 1970s.

Farley says the logical recourse would be short-term borrowing, selling debt that expires in less than a year, known as tax or revenue anticipation notes. But "they don't want to tap the anticipation-notes markets because the high interest rates will make news," he adds.

"They are low on cash because they underestimated expenses to make an unbalanced budget look balanced."

Wayward Waymo recall

Waymo, the self-driving vehicle unit of tech giant Alphabet, is recalling over 3,800 robotaxis in the US after a software glitch caused more than a dozen of its vehicles to drive into freeway construction zones — the latest in a string of tech blunders.

The firm filed the recall with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration after the incidents starting in early April in California and Arizona. The autonomous vehicles didn't recognize and drove past ramp closure signs into pre-planned freeway construction zones and freeway lanes with active construction work.

The recall is the second by Waymo in just over a month. *Marc Vartabedian*

Intel spikes on Apple deal

Intel stock closed at an all-time high after President Trump said Apple agreed to work with the company to design and build chips in the US, an endorsement of the once-mighty chip maker's turnaround plan.

In a Truth Social post, Trump said the Apple-Intel partnership was the latest step in US help for Intel. The company's shares have surged fourfold since the federal government announced a 10% stake in it last August.

Shares rose another 11% to $133.99 on Thursday.

Apple and Intel previously reached a preliminary agreement for Intel to manufacture some chips for Apple devices after more than a year of intense talks, The Wall Street Journal reported in May.

"I decided to help Intel because we need to design and build our Chips right here in America," Trump posted.

Intel and Apple didn't respond to requests for comment. *Dow Jones*

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A_1 E_1 I_1 I_1 L_1 F_4 T_1 3rd Letter Triple RACK 1

A_1 A_1 O_1 L_1 R_1 S_1 P_3 Double Word Score RACK 2

A_1 A_1 B_3 N_1 D_2 S_1 D_2 RACK 3

A_1 U_1 Y_4 N_1 R_1 H_4 R_1 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
BEST SCORE 203

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

F_4 I_1 L_1 I_1 A_1 T_1 E_1 RACK 1 = 62
P_3 A_1 R_1 A_1 S_1 O_1 L_1 RACK 2 = 68
S_1 A_1 N_1 D_2 D_2 A_1 B_3 RACK 3 = 61
H_4 U_1 R_1 R_1 A_1 Y_4 RACK 4 = 12
PAR SCORE 145-155 TOTAL 203

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 8 4
♡ 9 7 6 5
◇ A J 7
♣ Q 9 3

WEST
♠ J 9 7 6 5 3
♡ 4
◇ Q 10 9 6 4
♣ 8

EAST
♠ None
♡ A K Q 10 8 2
◇ K 8 5 3 2
♣ 6 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 2
♡ J 3
◇ None
♣ A K J 10 7 5 2

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT(!)	2 ♡
5 ♣	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♡ 4

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"Do you think you'll ever marry?" I asked Wendy, my club's feminist.

"Before I do," said she, "I'll have the man use a computer with a slow internet connection, take a trip to a laundromat and assemble an entertainment center. Then I'll know what kind of person he really is."

Wendy was West in a penny game. East might have bid five diamonds at his second turn; he would have struck gold. Against five clubs, Wendy led her singleton heart, and East won with the queen, took the king and continued with the ace. That defense suited South; he ruffed, drew trumps and claimed 11 tricks.

HIGH HEART

"You could ruff my second high heart and lead a spade," East told Wendy.

"You just demonstrated what kind of a partner you are," Wendy growled.

East could have helped Wendy find the winning defense. East should win the first heart with the ace, then lead the king as a suit-preference play. By winning his heart honors out of the normal order, East would beg West to lead a spade. (Even better, East could win the first heart with the ace and return the ten.)

Word Force

PREPLANNED

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 25** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
NITRATE

inert
inter
irate
niter
taint
titan
train
trait
treat
trite

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHARGING AN ELECTRIC CAR — Solution: 7 letters

C	M	L	I	T	H	I	U	M	B	T	H	G	I	N
I	N	O	S	S	E	L	E	R	I	W	D	A	O	R
R	O	O	D	T	U	O	U	T	L	E	T	I	E	E
C	C	B	I	E	R	E	T	O	O	C	S	W	S	H
U	R	I	E	T	L	T	R	A	M	S	O	T	O	T
I	U	L	N	E	A	E	E	S	I	P	H	U	T	A
T	I	L	E	V	A	R	T	M	P	G	S	Ⓟ	R	E
R	S	S	R	A	E	A	E	A	I	E	L	Ⓛ	A	W
U	E	A	G	S	T	H	R	L	R	T	T	Ⓤ	N	A
C	G	F	Y	I	T	K	I	S	E	E	F	Ⓖ	S	S
K	A	E	O	C	I	E	F	C	I	C	P	T	P	E
S	E	N	E	N	V	R	I	U	L	Z	C	O	O	D
T	L	R	G	I	I	R	Q	E	E	E	E	A	R	O
N	I	A	R	D	P	E	D	A	L	L	R	A	T	C
D	M	D	E	Y	D	E	E	P	S	O	C	K	E	T

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Acceleration, Bills, Card, Circuit, Codes, Cruise, Direct, Drain, Drive, Emission, Energy, Fees, Fuel, House, Lights, Lithium, Mileage, Model, Night, Operate, Outdoor, Outlet, Parking, Pedal, Plug, Power, Price, Quiet, Ride, Road, Safe, Save, Scooter, Size, Smart, Socket, Speed, Station, Time, Transport, Travel, Trucks, Vehicle, Wall, Weather, Wireless

Yesterday's Answer: Brickhard

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POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

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Solutions on Page 64

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Very Easy #7,314

1					2			8
	4		3				1	
		9	8		4	7		3
			6	8				5
6	7	1				9	8	2
5				2	7			
9		8	4		6	1		
	2				5		3	
3			2					9

Difficult #7,104

		5						8
			1		3	2		
2	8						7	
	1		7		5			
				9				
	9		8		2			
	7						2	6
		8	5		1			
1						9		

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14			■	15						■	16			
17			■	18						19				
20			21	■	■	22					■	23		
24				25	26				■	27	28			
29						■	■	■	30					
■	■	■	■	31		32	33	34		■	35			
■	■	36	37							38			■	■
39	40			■	41						■	■	■	■
42				43		■	■	■	44		45	46	47	48
49					■	50	51	52						
53			■	54	55				■	■	56			
57			58						59	60	■	61		
62				■	63						■	64		
65				■	66						■	67		

Across
1 Jaguar or Charger
4 Orchard basket
10 Gillette brand
14 Bullpen stat
15 "Reckon maybe, yeah"
16 Urge on
17 Part of a journey
18 To: Comedian Michael, bedding salesman <___.com>
20 Jazz great James
22 Cropped up
23 ThirdLove purchase
24 To: Athlete Jackson, lawn products salesman <___.com>
27 Like a best-case scenario
29 "Love it!"
30 Queerplatonic orientation, briefly
31 Dirge
35 Bills replaced by coins in Canada and Australia
36 To: Broadcast journalist Anderson, surgical supply salesman <___.com>
39 Mil. no-show
41 Haberdashery purchase
42 People in the background of a selfie, perhaps
44 Dillydally
49 Juvenile eel
50 To: Actor Cheadle, chemistry lab supply salesman <___.com>
53 Pub pour
54 Beloved, in Bordeaux
56 Set that might have an OLED screen
57 To: Singer Bruno, bulletin board salesman <___.com>
61 Taste
62 Show opener
63 Leash
64 Part of a rock band?
65 Smart home system by Google
66 Grooms, as feathers
67 Homer's neighbor

Down
1 Red carpet VIPs
2 Defiant reply
3 Motley
4 Pen name
5 See to a seat, casually
6 Pickle serving
7 Stockpile
8 These, in Spanish
9 "___ is more"
10 Number that's always positive
11 Cutesy name for paw pads
12 Unpleasant routine
13 Media revenue source
19 Trust-worthy figure?
21 From ___ Z
25 Texter's encouragement to try something new
26 Assimilates
28 Portal
30 ___ the Hun
32 ___ fun: noodle dish
33 Bard's before
34 Suede quality
36 New fans
37 Like a quaint shoppe
38 "I got this!"
39 Local guy in The Onion headlines
40 "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" poet Stevens
43 Antarctic predator
45 Research org. with facilities in Bethesda
46 Jake Gyllenhaal, to Jamie Lee Curtis
47 Complete
48 Answered, in a way
50 Put off
51 Provide an address
52 Not wide-ranging
55 URL intro
58 Gather dust
59 "KPop Demon Hunters" voice actor Jeong
60 Former jrs.

G	A	G	A	■	B	A	S	R	A	■	C	Z	A	R
O	R	A	L	■	A	R	O	A	R	■	H	O	N	E
B	E	S	O	■	E	T	U	D	E	■	I	O	T	A
Y	A	H	O	O	■	R	N	A	■	E	L	M	E	R
■	■	■	F	I	R	E	D	R	I	L	L	■	■	■
A	B	S	■	L	E	S	A	B	R	E	■	L	S	D
B	O	A	■	H	O	T	D	E	S	K	■	I	O	U
B	O	G	I	E	■	O	V	A	■	T	I	F	F	S
A	R	E	N	A	■	R	I	C	■	R	H	E	T	T
■	■	W	E	T	■	E	C	O	■	A	O	L	■	■
F	L	I	P	■	T	R	E	N	D	■	P	E	C	S
J	U	S	T	S	O	■	■	■	I	C	E	S	A	W
O	C	D	■	P	R	O	T	I	P	S	■	S	I	A
R	I	O	■	A	S	P	I	R	I	N	■	O	R	B
D	A	M	■	N	O	T	M	A	N	Y	■	N	O	S

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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EMPLOYMENT

TECH CAREERS

Associate Director - Data Analyst at Moody's Analytics, Inc. (New York, NY). Drive projects & initiatives using data & analytics to create business impact & help the org make informed decisions. Reqts: Bachelor's deg in Business, Finance, or a rel field + 5 yrs of prog resp exp leveraging data & analytics in a financial services org. Anticipated hiring base salary range: $169,541 to $206,700/yr. To apply, please submit resume through careers.moodys.com or via e-mail at hrbox28@moodys.com. Please refer to Job Ref. 13510.

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

**QUEENS COUNTY
NOTICE OF SALE**

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,
-against-
PETER BAILEY, ET AL.
NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on May 27, 2025, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff and PETER BAILEY, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD, COURTROOM 25, JAMAICA, NY 11435, on July 24, 2026 at 10:00AM, premises known as 12001 170TH STREET, JAMAICA, NY 11434; and the following tax map identification: 12387-117.
ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS, COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 717019/2022. Fearonce G. LaLande, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/ CLERK DIRECTIVES.

**ALBANY COUNTY
NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF
A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Qualification of SevaRx, LLC. Certificate of Authority filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/09/2025. Office location: Albany County. Limited Liability Company (LLC) formed on 6/20/2023. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Resident Agent LLC: 700 Lavaca St, Austin, Texas 78701. Articles of Organization originally filed with Secretary of State (SOS). 10996 Four Seasons Place, Suite 100C Crown Point, IN 46307 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST JUAN CRUZ; ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 26, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, on the second floor in Courtroom 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on July 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM, premises known as 102-02 39th Avenue, Corona, NY 11368. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the former Town of Newtown, County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block: 1770 Lot: 26. Approximate amount of judgment $709,852.02 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #725411/2021. For sale information, please visit Auction.com at www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832. Lawrence M. Litwack, Esq., Referee Fein, Such & Crane, LLP 28 East Main Street Rochester, NY 14614 AYSNC295 90024

FIFA World Cup

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
South Korea	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Czechia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
South Africa	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

GROUP A
Thursday, June 11
Mexico 2, South Africa 0
South Korea 2, Czechia 1
Thursday
Czechia 1, South Africa 1
Mexico 1, South Korea 0
Wednesday, June 24
Czechia vs. Mexico, 9pm
South Africa vs. South Korea, 9pm

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Qatar	1	0	1	1	1	7	1

GROUP B
Friday, June 12
Canada 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Saturday, June 13
Qatar 1, Switzerland 1
Thursday
Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Canada vs. Qatar, (n)
Wednesday, June 24
Switzerland vs. Canada, 3pm
Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Qatar, 3pm

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Scotland	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Morocco	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Brazil	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Haiti	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP C
Saturday, June 13
Brazil 1, Morocco 1
Haiti 0, Scotland 1
Friday
Scotland vs. Morocco, 6pm
Brazil vs. Haiti, 8:30pm
Wednesday, June 24
Scotland vs. Brazil, 6pm
Morocco vs. Haiti, 6pm

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
United States	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Paraguay	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

GROUP D
Friday, June 12
United States 4, Paraguay 1
Sunday, June 14
Australia 2, Turkey 0
Friday
United States vs. Australia, 3pm
Turkey vs. Paraguay, 11pm
Thursday
Turkey vs. United States, 10pm
Paraguay vs. Australia, 10pm

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Ivory Coast	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Ecuador	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Curacao	1	0	0	1	1	7	0

GROUP E
Sunday, June 14
Germany 7, Curacao 1
Ivory Coast 1, Ecuador 0
Saturday
Germany vs. Ivory Coast, 4pm
Ecuador vs. Curacao, 8pm
Thursday
Ecuador vs. Germany, 4pm
Curacao vs. Ivory Coast, 4pm

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Japan	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Netherlands	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

GROUP F
Sunday, June 14
Netherlands 2, Japan 2
Sweden 5, Tunisia 1
Saturday
Netherlands vs. Sweden, 1pm
Sunday
Tunisia vs. Japan, 12am
Thursday
Tunisia vs. Netherlands, 7pm
Japan vs. Sweden, 7pm

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
New Zealand	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Iran	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Belgium	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Egypt	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

GROUP G
Monday, June 15
Belgium 1, Egypt 1
Iran 2, New Zealand 2
Sunday
Belgium vs. Iran, 3pm
New Zealand vs. Egypt, 9pm
Friday, June 26
New Zealand vs. Belgium, 11pm
Egypt vs. Iran, 11pm

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Uruguay	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Spain	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cape Verde	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

GROUP H
Monday, June 15
Spain 0, Cape Verde 0
Saudi Arabia 1, Uruguay 1
Sunday
Spain vs. Saudi Arabia, 12pm
Uruguay vs. Cape Verde, 6pm
Friday, June 26
Uruguay vs. Spain, 8pm
Cape Verde vs. Saudi Arabia, 8pm

GROUP I

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Norway	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
France	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Senegal	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Iraq	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

GROUP I
Tuesday, June 16
France 3, Senegal 1
Iraq 1, Norway 4
Monday
France vs. Iraq, 5pm
Norway vs. Senegal, 8pm
Friday, June 26
Norway vs. France, 3pm
Senegal vs. Iraq, 3pm

GROUP J

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Argentina	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Austria	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Jordan	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Algeria	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP J
Tuesday, June 16
Argentina 3, Algeria 0
Wednesday, June 17
Austria 3, Jordan 1
Monday
Argentina vs. Austria, 1pm
Jordan vs. Algeria, 11pm
Saturday, June 27
Jordan vs. Argentina, 10pm
Algeria vs. Austria, 10pm

GROUP K

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Congo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

GROUP K
Wednesday, June 17
Portugal 1, Congo 1
Uzbekistan 1, Colombia 3
Tuesday
Portugal vs. Uzbekistan, 1pm
Colombia vs. Congo, 10pm
Saturday, June 27
Colombia vs. Portugal, 7:30pm
Congo vs. Uzbekistan, 7:30pm

GROUP L

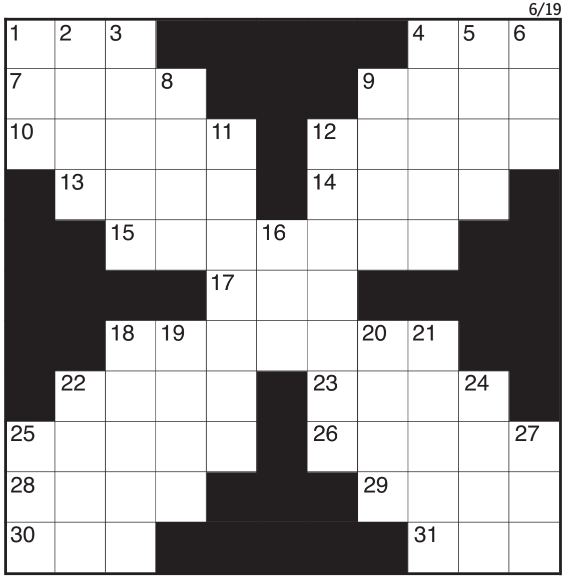
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Ghana	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Panama	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Croatia	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

GROUP L
Wednesday, June 17
England 4, Croatia 2
Ghana 1, Panama 0
Tuesday
England vs. Ghana, 4pm
Panama vs. Croatia, 7pm
Saturday, June 27
Panama vs. England, 5pm
Croatia vs. Ghana, 5pm

U.S. Open second round tee times, Page 71

SPORTSCROSS

6/19



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ACROSS
1 Six-pack
4 Mike Napoli
7 Yankee who led the AL in RBIs four times
9 Famed Somalian runner Abdi
10 Former FBI director with a law degree from NYU
12 Yankee who led the AL in RBIs twice
13 Roman tyrant
14 Hurricane that caused the Rays to play a "home game" vs. the Yankees at Citi Field in 2017
15 He shares the Mets record of nine RBIs in a game with 4 Down
17 "Tastes great!"
18 Win
22 Aviator's prefix
23 Eagle
25 Darryl Strawberry
26 Sportswriter Runyon
28 Enthusiasm
29 Yankee pitcher who was part of the package sent to the A's for Rickey Henderson in 1984
30 49ers tackle Banaszek (1968-77)
31 Warmup toss

DOWN
1 Underdog's call?
2 Score on
3 Horse
4 See 15 Across
5 Abdelnaby in the NBA
6 Throw
8 Call for the ball
9 The Yanks traded for him in 2025 but sent him to the minors in both '25 & '26
11 Scooter's sound
12 Shape for the Mets
16 Big tummy
18 Hurler Jose for the Yankees 2006-09
19 Boxer Barkley
20 Crowd sound
21 Baseball's Benitez in the '90s
22 Visiting Dodger Stadium
24 Only Met to lead the NL in RBIs
25 Power Four trio
27 Cribbage jack

SOLUTION IN SATURDAY'S POST

Golf

U.S. Open
At Shinnecock Hills Golf Club;
Southampton, N.Y; Purse: $22.5 million
Yardage: 7,440; Par: 70
(a)-amateur Partial First Round Suspended for darkness

Sam Stevens	32-36_68	-2
Ryder Cowan (a)	36-32_68	-2
Max McGreevy	35-33_68	-2
Rory McIlroy	34-35_69	-1
Ludvig Aberg	35-34_69	-1
Max Greyserman	34-35_69	-1
Brian Harman	34-35_69	-1
Ben James	35-34_69	-1
Keith Mitchell	29-41_70	E
Kristoffer Reitan	35-35_70	E
Keegan Bradley	35-35_70	E
Tommy Fleetwood	35-35_70	E
Tom Kim	33-37_70	E
William Mouw	34-36_70	E
Jackson Van Paris	35-35_70	E
James Nicholas	35-36_71	+1
Harry Higgs	34-37_71	+1
Adrien Dumont de Chassart	35-36_71	+1
Rickie Fowler	36-35_71	+1
Sam Burns	37-34_71	+1
Michael Kim	37-34_71	+1
Alex Fitzpatrick	35-36_71	+1
Niklas Norgaard	35-36_71	+1
John Parry	36-35_71	+1
Neal Shipley	35-36_71	+1
Zac Blair	35-36_71	+1
Matthew Jordan	36-36_72	+2
Miles Russell (a)	36-36_72	+2
Patrick Rodgers	34-38_72	+2
Cameron Young	37-35_72	+2
Patrick Reed	34-38_72	+2
Harris English	38-34_72	+2
Maverick McNealy	37-35_72	+2
Sepp Straka	39-33_72	+2
Scottie Scheffler	38-34_72	+2
Sahith Theegala	36-36_72	+2
Jackson Koivun (a)	37-35_72	+2
Laurie Canter	37-35_72	+2
Adrien Saddier	37-35_72	+2
Bud Cauley	36-36_72	+2
Michael Brennan	36-36_72	+2
Pierceson Coody	36-36_72	+2
Kevin Roy	35-37_72	+2
Preston Stout (a)	33-39_72	+2
Emiliano Grillo	38-35_73	+3
Brooks Koepka	35-38_73	+3
Andrew Novak	38-35_73	+3
Adam Scott	37-36_73	+3
Jacob Bridgeman	36-37_73	+3
Dylan Wu	37-36_73	+3
Sudarshan Yellamaraju	37-36_73	+3
Bryan Lee (a)	38-35_73	+3
Chandler Phillips	35-39_74	+4
Ethan Fong (a)	39-35_74	+4
Jackson Suber	36-38_74	+4
Peter Uihlein	38-36_74	+4
Eric Lee (a)	34-40_74	+4
Jimmy Stanger	37-37_74	+4
Ben Silverman	34-40_74	+4
Sungjae Im	36-38_74	+4
Lucas Herbert	36-38_74	+4
Tyrrell Hatton	37-37_74	+4
Kurt Kitayama	36-38_74	+4
Nick Taylor	38-36_74	+4
Alex Noran	36-38_74	+4
Harry Hall	38-36_74	+4
Andrew Putnam	36-38_74	+4
Davis Thompson	39-35_74	+4
Caleb Surratt	38-37_75	+5
Jayden Schaper	37-38_75	+5
Jackson Herrington (a)	39-36_75	+5
Chase Kyes (a)	36-39_75	+5
Cameron Smith	41-34_75	+5
Chris Gotterup	38-37_75	+5
J.B. Holmes	37-38_75	+5
Filippo Celli	37-38_75	+5
Vaughn Harber (a)	40-35_75	+5
Nathan Kimsey	36-40_76	+6
Graeme McDowell	40-36_76	+6
Brandon Holtz (a)	37-39_76	+6
Jake Peacock	37-39_76	+6
Hennie Du Plessis	36-40_76	+6
Ugo Coussaud	40-36_76	+6

LPGA Tour- Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give
At Blythefield Country Club; Belmont, Mich.;
Purse: $3.3 million; Yardage: 6,611; Par: 72
First Round

Yan Liu	33-33	66	-6
Cassie Porter	34-33	67	-5
Jessica Porvasnik	33-34	67	-5
Celine Borge	35-33	68	-4
Daniela Darquea	34-34	68	-4
You Min Hwang	33-35	68	-4
MinJi Kang	36-32	68	-4
Jennifer Kupcho	35-33	68	-4
Benedetta Moresco	34-34	68	-4
Nastasia Nadaud	32-36	68	-4
Jing Yan	33-35	68	-4

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Yankees	45	28	.616	—	—	8-2	L-1	21-13	24-15
Tampa Bay	41	30	.577	3	+6	4-6	L-3	24-9	17-21
Toronto	37	38	.493	9	—	6-4	W-3	21-18	16-20
Baltimore	35	41	.461	11½	2½	4-6	L-1	22-19	13-22
Boston	29	43	.403	15½	6½	2-8	L-4	12-25	17-18

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	39	34	.534	—	—	6-4	W-1	24-12	15-22
Cleveland	40	35	.533	—	+3	4-6	W-1	19-17	21-18
Minnesota	36	40	.474	4½	1½	6-4	W-4	20-19	16-21
Kansas City	31	45	.408	9½	6½	4-6	W-2	18-21	13-24
Detroit	30	44	.405	9½	6½	4-6	L-2	18-16	12-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	39	37	.513	—	—	5-5	W-1	21-17	18-20
Athletics	37	38	.493	1½	½	6-4	W-1	17-21	20-17
Texas	35	39	.473	3	1½	4-6	L-3	17-17	18-22
Houston	35	41	.461	4	2½	5-5	W-2	18-20	17-21
Los Angeles	30	46	.395	9	7½	5-5	L-2	17-20	13-26

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Thursday

White Sox 5, **Yankees** 1
Toronto 4, Boston 3
Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 2
Minnesota 9, Texas 3
Seattle 3, Baltimore 0
Athletics, 5 L.A. Angels 0
Kansas City 14, St. Louis 6

Friday

Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 7:05
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
White Sox at Detroit, 6:40
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7:10
San Diego at Texas, 8:05
Cleveland at Houston, 8:10
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8:15
L.A. Angels at Athletics, 9:40
Minnesota at Arizona, 9:45
Baltimore at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10
Boston at Seattle, 10:10

Saturday

Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 1:35
Boston at Seattle, 10:10, 1st game
White Sox at Detroit, 1:10
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
San Diego at Texas, 4:05
Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Cleveland at Houston, 7:15
L.A. Angels at Athletics, 10:05
Baltimore at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10
Boston at Seattle, 10:10, 2nd game
Minnesota at Arizona, 10:10

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	46	27	.630	—	—	4-6	L-3	22-13	24-14
Philadelphia	40	35	.533	7	+1	5-5	L-2	21-19	19-16
Washington	39	36	.520	8	—	6-4	L-1	16-22	23-14
Miami	37	38	.493	10	2	7-3	W-1	23-16	14-22
Mets	34	41	.453	13	5	5-5	W-2	18-18	16-23

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	45	27	.625	—	—	6-4	L-1	25-15	20-12
St. Louis	40	33	.548	5½	+2	5-5	L-2	21-17	19-16
Chicago	39	36	.520	7½	—	5-5	W-1	22-16	17-20
Pittsburgh	38	37	.507	8½	1	4-6	W-2	20-19	18-18
Cincinnati	35	38	.479	10½	3	4-6	L-1	19-19	16-19

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	48	27	.640	—	—	6-4	W-3	25-12	23-15
San Diego	38	35	.521	9	—	5-5	W-1	19-19	19-16
Arizona	38	36	.514	9½	½	5-5	W-1	23-15	15-21
San Francisco	31	43	.419	16½	7½	5-5	W-3	14-20	17-23
Colorado	28	47	.373	20	11	4-6	L-1	14-20	14-27

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Thursday

Mets 6, Philadelphia 4
Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 2
Kansas City 14, St. Louis 6
San Francisco at Atlanta, ppd.

Friday

Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 7:05
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
San Francisco at Miami, 7:10
Washington at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:15
San Diego at Texas, 8:05
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8:15
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 8:40
Minnesota at Arizona, 9:45
Baltimore at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

Saturday

Cincinnati at **Yankees**, 1:35
Mets at Philadelphia, 7:15
Toronto at Cubs, 2:20
San Diego at Texas, 4:05
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 4:10
San Francisco at Miami, 4:10
Washington at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9:10
Baltimore at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10
Minnesota at Arizona, 10:10

POST SU DOKU Puzzles on Page 62

1	3	5	7	6	2	4	9	8
8	4	7	3	5	9	2	1	6
2	6	9	8	1	4	7	5	3
4	9	2	6	8	1	3	7	5
6	7	1	5	4	3	9	8	2
5	8	3	9	2	7	6	4	1
9	5	8	4	3	6	1	2	7
7	2	6	1	9	5	8	3	4
3	1	4	2	7	8	5	6	9

Solution to Very Easy #7,314

3	4	5	2	7	9	6	1	8
7	6	9	1	8	3	2	5	4
2	8	1	6	5	4	3	7	9
6	1	3	7	4	5	8	9	2
8	5	2	3	9	6	7	4	1
4	9	7	8	1	2	5	6	3
5	7	4	9	3	8	1	2	6
9	2	8	5	6	1	4	3	7
1	3	6	4	2	7	9	8	5

Solution to Difficult #7,104

White Sox 5, Yankees 1

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meidroth 2b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.277
Grichuk dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.292
Benintendi ph-dh	1	1	1	4	0	0	.242
Vargas 1b-3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.240
C.Montgomery 3b-ss	3	1	2	1	1	0	.230
Quero c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.191
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.194
Acuña ss	2	0	1	0	0	0	.207
Antonacci ph-lf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.281
Perez lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Gonzalez ph-1b	1	1	0	0	0	1	.190
Peters cf	2	1	0	0	0	0	.291
Totals	**32**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**1**	**11**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rice 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.291
Goldschmidt dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.300
Bellinger lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.275
J.Domínguez rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.191
Chisholm 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Volpe ph-ss	1	0	1	0	1	0	.250
Jones cf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.245
Caballero ss-2b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.265
McMahon 3b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.211
Escarra c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.188
Totals	**30**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**10**	

Chicago	**010 000 040 —**	**5**	**6**	**1**
Yankees	**001 000 000 —**	**1**	**6**	**0**

E: Peters (3). **LOB:** Chicago 3, New York 3. **2B:** Antonacci (9), Jones (2), Volpe (5). **HR:** C.Montgomery (20), off Weathers; Benintendi (9), off Doval; McMahon (8), off Burke. **RBIs:** C.Montgomery (45), Benintendi 4 (37), McMahon (23). **CS:** Volpe (2), Acuña (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 0; New York 1 (Caballero). **RISP:** Chicago 1 for 2; New York 0 for 1.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hudson	1.2	1	0	0	0	2	27	2.34
Burke, W, 4-4	7.1	5	1	1	1	8	88	3.89

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Weathers	6.1	3	1	1	1	8	88	4.13
Cruz, L, 4-2	0.2	1	1	1	0	1	10	2.25
Hill	0.1	0	2	2	0	1	10	4.55
Doval	1.2	2	1	1	0	1	16	5.08

T: 2:33. **A:** 44,809 (47,309).

Twins 9, Rangers 3

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	5	2	3	3	0	0	.273
Fedko lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Buxton cf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Clemens rf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.250
Lewis 1b	5	0	0	0	0	4	.199
Bell dh	4	1	2	1	1	0	.244
Lee 3b	5	1	1	3	0	0	.238
Caratini c	4	2	3	0	0	0	.228
T.Gray ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Kreidler ph-ss	2	1	1	2	0	0	.243
Keaschall 2b	2	1	2	0	2	0	.252
Totals	**39**	**9**	**13**	**9**	**3**	**8**	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.242
Foscue ph-dh	1	1	1	1	1	0	.274
Jung 3b	5	0	2	0	0	0	.301
Langford lf-cf	4	1	2	1	1	2	.244
Nimmo rf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.256
Duran ss	3	1	1	1	0	0	.278
Lopez ph-ss	1	0	1	0	0	0	.283
Smith 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.218
Burger 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.248
Osuna cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Freeman ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Higashioka c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Totals	**37**	**3**	**11**	**3**	**3**	**10**	

Minnesota	**400 201 020 —**	**9**	**13**	**0**
Texas	**000 002 001 —**	**3**	**11**	**0**

LOB: Minnesota 6, Texas 10. **2B:** Smith (3). **HR:** Lee (12), off Leiter; Larnach (5), off Leiter; Kreidler (4), off Quantrill; Langford (4), off Lawrence; Duran (5), off Lawrence; Foscue (4), off Laweryson. **RBIs:** Bell (46), Lee 3 (42), Larnach 3 (21), Kreidler 2 (14), Langford (9), Duran (37), Foscue (10). **SB:** Keaschall (11). **Runners left in scoring position:** Minnesota 1 (Buxton); Texas 5 (Nimmo 2, Burger 2, Osuna). **RISP:** Minnesota 4 for 6; Texas 0 for 5.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ryan, W, 5-3	5.0	3	0	0	2	7	97	2.99
Lawrence	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	18	6.59
Rogers	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	15	5.20
Morris	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.68
Orze	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	12	4.67
Laweryson	1.0	3	1	1	0	0	17	5.65

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Leiter, L, 3-7	4.0	7	6	6	2	4	76	5.29
P.Gray	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.70
Ahlstrom	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	28	1.29
Quantrill	2.0	4	2	2	0	1	36	3.68
Winn	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5.56

T: 2:59. **A:** 30,606 (40,000).

Mets 6, Phillies 4

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf-cf	5	1	3	0	0	1	.257
Bichette ss-3b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Soto lf	4	2	2	2	1	0	.300
Young 1b	3	1	0	0	0	1	.235
Vientos ph-1b	1	1	0	0	1	0	.217
Ewing cf	3	0	2	1	0	0	.261
Wagaman ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.333
Short pr-ss	1	1	0	0	0	0	.150
Semien 2b	4	0	2	2	0	1	.225
Baty 3b-rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.222
Melendez dh	3	0	0	0	1	3	.193
Alvarez c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.255
Totals	**38**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**3**	**9**	

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	0	1	0	0	0	0	.223
Crawford cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.238
Schwarber dh	5	1	1	0	0	2	.245
Harper 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.248
Bohm 3b	4	0	2	2	0	1	.232
Marsh rf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.317
Sosa lf-ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.235
Stott 2b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.236
Realmuto c	3	1	0	0	1	0	.202
Hill cf-rf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.217
Rincones ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.133
Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**10**	

Mets	**201 000 300 —**	**6**	**11**	**2**
Philadelphia	**101 100 001 —**	**4**	**8**	**1**

E: Alvarez (3), Ewing (1), Nola (1). **LOB:** New York 8, Philadelphia 7. **2B:** Ewing (6), Bohm (10). **3B:** Semien (1), Sosa (1). **HR:** Soto 2 (17), off Nola. **RBIs:** Soto 2 (38), Ewing (12), Wagaman (2), Semien 2 (29), Bohm 2 (41), Hill (9), Crawford (15). **SB:** Stott (14), Benge (11). **CS:** Harper (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4 (Baty, Bichette, Semien 2); Philadelphia 4 (Hill, Crawford, Schwarber, Marsh). **RISP:** New York 2 for 7; Philadelphia 5 for 14.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea	5.1	6	3	2	1	5	95	4.64
Brazobán, W, 4-1	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	20	1.91
Minter, H, 1	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.00
Weaver, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	14	2.25
Williams, S, 11-12	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	25	5.18

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nola	5.0	7	3	2	1	6	97	5.71
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	5.79
Alvarado, L, 3-2	1.0	3	3	3	1	1	30	6.58
Wilson	2.0	1	0	0	1	0	29	0.00

T: 3:09. **A:** 39,767 (42,901).

Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.218
V.Guerrero 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.279
Sánchez rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.287
Schneider lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.167
Piñango lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.293
Straw cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Clement 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.294
Lukes cf-rf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.313
Okamoto 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.230
Valenzuela c	4	0	2	1	0	1	.261
Giménez ss	3	0	0	1	0	1	.229
Totals	**34**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**1**	**6**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gasper dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.269
Eaton pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Rafaela cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.287
Abreu rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274
Contreras 1b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.289
Duran lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.210
Kiner-Falefa ss	3	1	1	1	0	0	.277
Durbin 3b	3	1	1	1	0	0	.192
Wong c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Monasterio 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Totals	**31**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**0**	**6**	

Toronto	**110 000 101 —**	**4**	**10**	**0**
Boston	**000 000 120 —**	**3**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Toronto 5, Boston 2. **2B:** Okamoto (10), Springer (11), Piñango (7), Valenzuela (6), Gasper (5), Rafaela (16). **HR:** V.Guerrero (4), off Gray; Lukes (2), off Gray; Kiner-Falefa (2), off Yesavage; Durbin (4), off Yesavage. **RBIs:** V.Guerrero (30), Giménez (33), Lukes (14), Valenzuela (19), Contreras (44), Kiner-Falefa (13), Durbin (27). **SB:** Eaton (1). **CS:** Clement (1). **SF:** Giménez. **S:** Rafaela. **Runners left in scoring position:** Toronto 3 (Giménez, V.Guerrero 2); Boston 2 (Rafaela, Contreras). **RISP:** Toronto 1 for 4; Boston 0 for 5.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yesavage	7.1	4	3	3	0	6	95	3.76
Nance, W, 1-2	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	14	4.38
Fluharty, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.64

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray	7.0	6	3	3	1	4	89	3.12
Slaten	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	15	6.28
Chapman, L, 0-2	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	20	0.83

T: 2:23. **A:** 32,027 (37,755).

Guardians 4, Brewers 2

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	3	1	1	1	2	0	.250
Fry lf	2	1	1	1	1	0	.230
Schneemann ph-cf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.227
Rocchio ss	4	0	2	0	1	0	.269
Hoskins 1b	4	0	0	0	1	1	.178
Manzardo dh	3	1	1	1	1	0	.237
Arias 3b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.231
Fairchild cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Kwan ph-cf-lf	1	0	1	0	1	0	.213
Watson rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Hedges c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Totals	**33**	**4**	**7**	**3**	**8**	**9**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	4	0	1	0	1	1	.275
Chourio lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.307
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.262
Vaughn 1b	2	1	0	0	3	0	.347
Bauers rf	4	0	1	0	1	2	.269
Sánchez c	3	1	1	1	1	1	.228
Perkins cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.141
Mitchell ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Pratt ss	2	0	1	1	1	1	.333
Ortiz 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Contreras ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.291
Hamilton pr-3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Totals	**30**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**9**	**13**	

Cleveland	**001 001 200 —**	**4**	**7**	**0**
Milwaukee	**010 100 000 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Cleveland 11, Milwaukee 12. **2B:** Rocchio (10), Yelich (9), Perkins (5). **HR:** Fry (4), off Drohan; Manzardo (8), off Kuhnel; Bazzana (5), off Anderson. **RBIs:** Fry (9), Manzardo (23), Bazzana (18), Sánchez (20), Pratt (2). **CS:** Bazzana (3). **SF:** Pratt. **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 7 (Hedges, Schneemann, Arias 5); Milwaukee 9 (Yelich 3, Bauers 3, Vaughn 2, Ortiz). **RISP:** Cleveland 0 for 12; Milwaukee 1 for 12.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Messick, W, 7-3	6.0	4	2	2	3	9	96	2.70
Herrin, H, 12	0.2	0	0	0	2	0	12	2.84
Holderman, H, 6	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	17	1.69
Gaddis, H, 12	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	21	3.98
Smith, S, 24-26	1.1	0	0	0	2	2	22	2.38

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Drohan	5.0	3	1	1	3	3	91	3.40
Kuhnel, BS, 4-5	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	21	4.50
Anderson, L, 1-3	0.2	1	2	2	2	1	21	3.19
Rom	1.1	1	0	0	2	3	32	3.38
Yoho	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.25

T: 3:06. **A:** 36,386 (41,700).

Mariners 3, Orioles 0

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Henderson ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.223
Rutschman dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Jackson pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.247
Basallo c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.259
Taveras rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.255
Cowser cf	2	0	1	0	1	1	.222
Alexander 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.304
Holliday 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**11**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Raleigh dh	4	0	0	0	0	4	.164
Naylor 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Canzone rf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.288
C.Young 2b	3	1	1	1	0	0	.257
Emerson ss	2	0	1	2	1	1	.235
Garver c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.194
Robles cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.264
Mastrobuoni lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.217
Totals	**29**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**10**	

Baltimore	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**1**
Seattle	**300 000 00x —**	**3**	**5**	**0**

E: Taveras (4). **LOB:** Baltimore 6, Seattle 4. **2B:** Holliday (2), C.Young (11). **RBIs:** C.Young (34), Emerson 2 (16). **SB:** Emerson (1), Taveras (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Taveras, Ward 2); Seattle 2 (Garver, Naylor). **RISP:** Baltimore 0 for 5; Seattle 2 for 6.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Baz, L, 4-7	7.0	5	3	3	2	9	99	4.04
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	1.76

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woo, W, 6-5	7.0	3	0	0	1	9	89	3.94
Bazardo, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.16
Muñoz, S, 12-17	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	21	5.47

T: 2:15. **A:** 43,053 (47,929).

Royals 14, Cardinals 6

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	1	3	0	2	0	.266
Herrera dh	4	1	0	0	1	2	.257
Walker rf	4	0	2	1	1	1	.291
Crooks c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.182
Velázquez lf-rf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.323
Burleson 1b	3	0	0	1	1	1	.282
Church cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Winn ss	5	2	3	0	0	1	.242
Torres lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Jordan 3b	5	2	2	0	0	0	.308
Fermín cf-ss	5	0	2	2	0	0	.272
Pagés c-1b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.220
Totals	**39**	**6**	**13**	**5**	**6**	**8**	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Thomas cf	5	1	2	2	0	0	.232
Witt ss	2	2	2	2	0	0	.294
Tolbert ph-ss	2	1	0	0	1	2	.211
Caglianone 1b	5	1	1	2	0	1	.266
Marte rf	5	2	3	1	0	1	.277
Perez c	5	2	3	1	0	0	.207
Jensen dh	5	2	2	1	0	0	.238
Loftin 3b	5	0	2	2	0	1	.245
Collins lf	5	2	2	1	0	0	.221
Massey 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.256
Totals	**42**	**14**	**17**	**12**	**2**	**5**	

St. Louis	**200 110 200 —**	**6**	**13**	**1**
Kansas City	**160 401 11x —**	**14**	**17**	**1**

E: Velázquez (1), Witt (5). **LOB:** St. Louis 15, Kansas City 6. **2B:** Wetherholt (8), Velázquez (2), Winn (10), Jordan (2), Perez (7), Jensen 2 (16), Collins (9), Thomas (5), Marte (4), Loftin 2 (12). **HR:** Witt (10), off Liberatore; Caglianone (9), off Graceffo; Perez (10), off Rajcic. **RBIs:** Burleson (54), Walker (57), Fermín 2 (14), Pagés (11), Witt 2 (32), Jensen (38), Collins (21), Thomas 2 (20), Marte (6), Caglianone 2 (22), Loftin 2 (20), Perez (27). **SB:** Collins (4). **SF:** Burleson, Pagés. **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 8 (Fermín 2, Herrera, Winn, Burleson, Jordan, Velázquez 2); Kansas City 4 (Thomas, Perez, Collins, Massey). **RISP:** St. Louis 3 for 18; Kansas City 7 for 19.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Liberatore, L, 3-4	1.2	7	7	5	0	2	48	5.23
Graceffo	1.2	4	4	4	2	0	47	3.06
Rajcic	2.0	2	1	1	0	1	33	4.50
Bruihl	2.2	4	2	1	0	2	39	4.41

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cameron, W, 4-4	5.0	8	4	3	2	6	108	4.20
Black	2.0	3	2	2	2	0	40	3.57
Way	2.0	2	0	0	2	2	36	4.91

T: 3:09. **A:** 18,363 (38,427).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Liberty	11	4	.733	—
Atlanta	10	4	.714	½
Indiana	9	6	.600	2
Toronto	7	8	.467	4
Washington	6	7	.462	4
Chicago	4	10	.286	6½
Connecticut	2	14	.125	9½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	12	3	.800	—
Las Vegas	11	4	.733	1
Golden State	10	5	.667	2
Dallas	9	6	.600	3
Portland	8	9	.471	5
Los Angeles	7	8	.467	5
Phoenix	4	12	.250	8½
Seattle	3	13	.188	9½

Thursday

Atlanta 108, Indiana 101

Friday

Washington at **Liberty**, 7:30pm
Toronto at Connecticut, 7:30pm
Minnesota at Golden State, 10pm

Saturday

Indiana at Atlanta, 1pm
Seattle at Phoenix, 3pm
Chicago at Dallas, 8pm

Sunday

Liberty at Los Angeles, 8pm
Golden State at Las Vegas, 4pm
Washington at Minnesota, 6pm

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Power Of Women (3rd)
Lock Record: 9 for 16 (56%)
Meet Record: 57/192 $270.48

1 — 5 1/2 fur; $85,000; mdn; 2YO

Five two-year-old colts make their career debuts in the Friday opener. Here's three. **DEFROST** (Brisset/Lezcano/Frosted), **AL MOWASHAAH** (Cox/Franco/Tiz The Law) and **BANKER BULL** (Green/Prat/Central Banker).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Al Mowashaah,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Cox	2-1
2	Freedom Charge,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Asmussen	3-1
3	Georgie's Warrior,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Giddings	9-2
4	Defrost,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Brisset	7-2
5	Banker Bull,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Green	5-2

2 — 7 fur; $55,000; mdn clm($55,000); 3up

Playing **TWENTY TWO BLACK**. Turf to dirt for McPeek. 3rd at Fair Grounds last dirt start. Elliott on; blinkers on. **NOBLE HERITAGE** dueled down the lane and got beat by a nose at Monmouth. Route to sprint..Zayas on..blinkers off. **FESS** raced wide and debuted last of 6 at 23-1. Changes: Gutierrez on; blinkers on.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Capt Fluff N Stuff(L),126	F Prat	4-6-x	C Brown	5-2
2	Old Time Rocknroll(M),121	M Franco	6-x-x	C Brown	2-1
3	Twenty Two Black(L),121	C Elliott	6-3-5	McPeek	7-2
4	Fess(L),121	R Gutierrez	6-x-x	Ribaudo	12-1
5	Noble Heritage(L),121	E Zayas	2-3-3	Delgado	9-5

3 — 7 fur; $46,000; clm($20,000); 3YO(f)

Power up. **POWER OF WOMEN** was a troubled 4th last out. More formidable moving sharply lower for Dutrow. Santana stays on; so do we. **SO VAIN** moved lower and landed a disappointing 6th of 8. Ran 2nd at this shorter distance in March. Carmouche rides for Rice. **ICY LEGS** lost by a neck racing 7 panels. Stretched longer and turned in last of 7. Rebounds.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Maxisure(L),123	C Elliott	7-10-6	Arriaga	15-1
2	Ishkabibble(L),123	C Gonzalez	8-5-1	Ibrahim	8-1
3	Power of Women(L),123	R Santana, Jr	4-2-1	R Dutrow	4-5
4	So Vain(L),123	K Carmouche	6-1-4	Rice	3-1
5	Caradise(L),123	R Silvera	7-5-8	Friedman	15-1
6	Icy Legs(L),123	D Davis	7-3-1	Lalman	7-2

4 — 6 fur; $60,000; alw; 3up

Flying with **THREE LITTLE BIRDS** Didn't appreciate the mud and finished up the track. Much better 2nd at this shorter distance 2 back. Baker adds blinkers. **THE TOY CANNON** is now 2 for 4 at this distance after winning by open lengths. Claimed by Linda Dixon who has him well spotted. **MAGNI** was 2nd at Finger Lakes after winning previous pair. Carmouche a good sign but 1 for 14 at Aqueduct and 0 for 2 at the distance. **APOLLO CODE** Board hitter 6 of 7 at the Big A.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Apollo Code(L),126	C Elliott	3-2-2	Handal	5-2
2	The Toy Cannon(L),121	J Rodriguez	1-4-4	Dixon	2-1
3	Majestic Arc(L),126	K Davis	2-3-5	Shivmangal	8-1
4	Three Little Birds(L),126	R Santana, Jr	6-2-1	Baker	9-2
5	Magni(L),126	K Carmouche	2-1-1	Ferraro	7-2
6	Solomini's World(L),121	J Lezcano	4-3-1	Arriaga	6-1

5 — 1 mile; $85,000; mdn; 3up

We have Ricardo Santana winning 3 in a row with **FATEFUL LIGHTNING**. Turf to dirt for Gustavo Rodriguez who has a rich ROI off the switch. In the money 3 of 4 on dirt. Edge over the debuting **COLLADO HEUCO** (Brown/Prat/Into Mischief). Chad also enters **ALGHERO**. Makes 3YO debut after going 0 for 3 as a 2YO. Clear 2nd at Churchill prior to the layoff. 1st time lasix; 1st time Franco. **MO THE MERRIER** rallied well to be 2nd debuting at Fair Grounds. McPeek stretches the Uncle Mo colt longer. **LANGUID** was 3rd behind top pick.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Collado Hueco(M),120	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	5-2
2	Ovechkin(L),120	E Zayas	6-4-3	Hennig	12-1
3	Languid(L),120	J Alvarado	3-3-4	R Dutrow	10-1
4	Fateful Lightning(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-4-2	Rodriguez	9-2
5	Alghero(M),120	M Franco	2-3-7	C Brown	7-2
6	Mo the Merrier(L),120	C Elliott	2-x-x	McPeek	5-1
7	Into the Light(L),120	D Davis	2-7-7	R Dutrow	6-1
8	Asked and Answered(L),120	J Rodriguez	8-5-2	Arriaga	6-1

6 — 1 1/8 miles; $83,000; alw; 3up

We watched Baker's **BERNING BEAUTY** finish a wide 5th at 19-1 behind G Rodriguez' **CONCORDE SPIRIT** and Handal's **EZ ROLL** who ran home 2-3. Rider change to Rodriguez on Berning Beauty who offers best value again.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Rock the Weekend(L),126	K Davis	1-5-9	Shivmangal	20-1
2	Whittington Park(L),126	M Franco	7-4-3	Rodriguez	5-2
3	Concorde Spirit(L),126	K Carmouche	2-5-1	Rodriguez	2-1
4	Berning Beauty(L),126	J Rodriguez	5-1-5	Baker	6-1
5	Shadow Dragon(L),126	J Lezcano	6-5-3	Barrera III	7-2
6	Ez Roll(L),126	D Davis	3-1-1	Handal	3-1

7 — 6 fur(T); $88,000; alw; 3up

Late double is on the turf. **CUANDO** lunged at the start, recovered to make the lead but eventually finished last of 8. Made the board previous 3 starts. Carmouche stays on. **WHITE SMOKE RISING** loads off a maiden breaker if we're off turf. **WITHOUT BORDERS** is 1 of 2 in the field with 2 turf wins but hasn't scored since 2024. **STRATE CASH** was an energetic 2nd racing shorter at Keeneland. And **CHASING FREEDOM** was 3rd in the Paradise Creek, this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Itza Teamster(L),126	C Elliott	6-8-1	D'Angelo	15-1
2	Cyclonite(L),126	F Prat	3-3-2	Casse	7-2
3	Learntodiscover(GB)(L),121	D Davis	4-6-x	Walsh	6-1
4	Bite and Strike(L),126	J Lezcano	1-7-11	Rice	8-1
5	Pivotal Moment(L),126	J Rodriguez	6-4-3	Clement	9-2
6	Without Borders(L),126	M Chuan	8-3-4	Brion	20-1
7	Cuando(L),126	K Carmouche	8-2-3	Levine	9-2
8	Chasing Freedom(L),121	J Alvarado	3-1-7	Atras	15-1
9	Soontobeking(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-5-5	Weaver	15-1
10	Strate Cash(L),126	M Franco	2-6-10	DeVaux	4-1
11	White Smoke Rising(L),121	R Santana, Jr	1-2-x	Baker	2-1
12	Protected(L),126	C Elliott	6-4-3	C Martin	7-2
13	Pair of Socks(L),126	J Lezcano	2-3-2	Rice	5-2

8 — 1 1/16 miles(T); $57,000; clm($55,000); 3up

IN THE DARK enters off a handy gate-to-wire maiden breaker (8th start). Well spotted. Right back. **SWISS ARMY KNIFE** MTO. **SNOOKIE BEAR** Dirt to turf off the layoff for Ness. 8th of 10 last grass start but better at this reduced height. Resurfaces as a 1st time gelding.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	In the Dark(L),126	J Rodriguez	1-9-9	Morey	3-1
2	Crowbar Artist(L),120	D Davis	1-5-4	R Dutrow	15-1
3	Snookie Bear(L),126	R Silvera	2-5-8	Ness	7-2
4	Chummers(L),120	F Prat	8-9-6	Handal	5-1
5	Middle Market(L),126	J Lezcano	2-5-5	Arenas	5-1
6	Tim and Sam(L),120	R Santana, Jr	11-7-1	De Paz	8-1
7	Chips and Fish(L),120	C Elliott	9-1-3	Arriaga	4-1
8	Gallant One(L),120	K Davis	5-4-1	DeLauro	20-1
9	Mike's Magic(L),126	K Carmouche	2-7-8	Hills	15-1
10	Calling Card(L),126	F Prat	2-2-5	Maker	3-1
11	Swiss Army Knife(L),120	Rider TBA	1-8-4	Abreu	5-2

PLAY OF THE DAY

Concurrently ($3.86) was popular at the betting windows and more so when she crossed the wire first. Short profit on the day: +$27.90.

One more. Play $20 to win and place on Berning Beauty in Race 6. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Aqueduct Results

FIRST-1 mile; $85,000; mdn spl wt; 3up (f&m)
5 Lng Trm Mrkt (Prt) 4.34 2.14 2.10
4 Phantom Blue (Davis) 2.10 2.10
3 Jadorlinija (Rodriguez) 2.72

● $1 Exacta (5-4) $3.60 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-4-3-1) $1.45 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-4-3) $4.76

Exacta picked by Vic C

SECOND-5½ fur; $85,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
9 Arctc Wlf (SntnJr.) 6.64 3.62 2.94
4 Rver of Decet (Alvarado) 3.86 4.00
7 Berta's Stitch (Davis) 7.42

● $1 Daily Double (5-9) $8.41 ● $1 Exacta (9-4) $16.04 ● $1 Quinella (4-9) $7.61 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-4-7-6) $53.68 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-4-7) $55.49

THIRD-1 mile; $88,000; alw; 3YO F
2 Concurrently (Prt) 3.86 3.10 2.10
5 Krissys Star (Rodriguez) 7.40 2.60
6 Hand Over Heart (Davis) 2.10
Scr: People Watching

● $1 Pick 3 (5-9-2) $21.80 ● $1 Daily Double (9-2) $8.19 ● $1 Exacta (2-5) $12.64 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-5-6-1) $3.73 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-5-6) $6.55

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

FOURTH-5½ fur; $85,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
1 Tara (Carmouche) 16.18 7.66 5.30
10 J'ray's Jewel (Alvarado) 5.52 4.12
6 Blessednotbotherd (Rodrguz) 5.52

● $1 Pick 3 (9-2-1) $69.87 ● $1 Daily Double (2-1) $19.16 ● $1 Exacta (1-10) $46.93 ● $1 Quinella (1-10) $21.13 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-10-6-5) $220.05 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-10-6) $122.98

FIFTH-1 mile 3 fur; $90,000; alw; 4up
1 Harrow (Davis) 12.32 5.26 3.76
2 Mutaawid (Prat) 4.14 3.02
8 Myor of Mdnght (IRE) (Frnco) 4.10
Scr: Otello, Waitlist, Hall Monitor, Dreamlike, Makes Sense

● $1 Pick 3 (2-1-1) $154.76 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (5-9-2/4-1-1) $812.75 ● $1 Daily Double (1-1) $46.78 ● $1 Exacta (1-2) $26.94 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-2-8-3) $17.07 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-2-8-4) $20.64 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-2-8) $61.25

SIXTH-6 fur; $41,000; md cl($35,0); 3upf
6 Kaz Farm Grl (Dvs) 2.50
Scr: Fire Baton, Luckbeourlady, Coco d'Oro, Peggie Castle

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-1-1/2/7) $47.33 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-1-6) $71.48 ● $1 Daily Double (1-6) $11.36 ● $1 Consolation Double (1-1/2/7) $7.21

Winner picked by Vic C

SEVENTH-7 fur; $70,000; soc($75,000); 3YO F
5 Ldy Rose (Lezcno) 2.86 2.48 2.10
3 Cravings (Silvera) 6.60 4.14
6 Dee's On Dow (Zayas) 2.88
Scr: Sparkling Mama, Donna Romano, Gracie's Delight

● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (1-1/2/7-5) $13.01 ● $1 Grand Slam (1/6/10-1/2/8-6-5) $12.72 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-6-5) $19.13 ● $1 Daily Double (6-5) $2.27 ● $1 Exacta (5-3) $8.64 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-3-6-8) $6.26 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-3-6) $18.72

Double picked by Vic C

EIGHTH-1 mile; $41,000; cl($30,0); 3up (f&m)
1 Smlng Ros (Alvrd) 20.54 10.42 7.60
6 Roagna (Zayas) 4.96 3.88
5 Greyjoy (Davis) 5.06
Scr: Widdershins, Moonlight Gal, Amelia's Echo, Karey, Ruby Ruby

● $1 Pick 6 (2-1-1-1/2/6/7-5-1) $33.47 ● $1 Pick 6 (2-1-1-1/2/6/7-5-1) $2798.25 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (6-5-3) $2.51 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-5-1) $52.56 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1-1/2/6/7-5-1) $133.11 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1-1-1/2/6/7-5-1) $1217.35 ● $1 Daily Double (5-1) $22.32 ● $1 Exacta (1-6) $71.27 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-6-5-4) $146.98 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-6-5) $163.54 ● $1 Consolation Double (5-3) $1.66

Yonkers entries for Friday

FIRST: Mile pace; $15,000; claiming

1	Madelines BlkJack	(JBartlett)	3-2-3	9-2
2	Deedenuto A	(ASiegelman)	3-6-7	20-1
3	Decision Day	(JStratton)	2-6-7	5-1
4	Captain Batboy	(YGingras)	6-4-4	6-1
5	Shine A Light	(BHolland)	1-6-1	1-1
6	Hugh Heston	(MKakaley)	1-2-5	12-1
7	Dismas	(GBrennan)	5-5-6	12-1

SECOND: Mile pace; $15,000; cond

1	Duck Into The Nite	(CKelly)	3-7-5	5-1
2	Coachellabound N	(JBartlett)	5-7-7	6-5
3	Dougs Babe A	(GBrennan)	7-6-6	5-2
4	Knock Twice	(ASiegelman)	1-6-6	12-1
5	Miki In Luv	(DDube)	6-6-2	12-1
6	You Beda Rock	(JStratton)	4-5-6	10-1
7	Discoveringthehunt	(YGngrs)	6-2-8	12-1

THIRD: Mile pace; $21,000; cond

1	Chanceoflightning	(JStrattn)	8-3-3	3-1
2	YsSensationalcity	(MKakley)	7-3-6	12-1
3	Vibrance	(YGingras)	5-2-1	8-1
4	Nila Maree N	(JBartlett)	3-3-6	6-5
5	Bronx Mixer	(DDube)	4-1-6	6-1
6	Lydeo	(GBrennan)	3-2-8	5-1

FOURTH: Mile pace; $43,000; Invitational

1	Seaside Diva	(YGingras)	3-2-5	9-2
2	Ambushed	(BHolland)	2-1-4	5-1
3	Stayingwiththewnd	(JBrtlett)	7-1-2	4-1
4	Millwood Bliss N	(GBrennan)	4-5-6	8-1
5	Front PageStory	(Lachance)	5-4-4	10-1
6	Tick A Loch A	(MKakaley)	1-5-4	6-1
7	Coastal Babe N	(CKelly)	3-4-2	3-1

FIFTH: Mile trot; $23,000; cond

1	My Man Peter	(JBartlett)	1-7-2	2-1
2	Frank Leahy	(GBrennan)	8-6-3	8-1
3	Musical Ride	(PLachance)	2-3-5	12-1
4	Hot Flash Kimmy	(BHolland)	3-7-3	9-5
5	Lefties Righties	(CKelly)	4-3-4	4-1
6	StmikesKerryblues	(JStrattn)	2-1-4	20-1
7	I'm Out	(JMarohn)	7-1-1	20-1
8	Vinny De Vie	(SSmith)	2-2-6	20-1

SIXTH: Mile pace; $23,000; cond

1	Elegant A	(CKelly)	1-7-6	2-1
2	Lucky Artist A	(BHolland)	3-1-6	4-1
3	Shez The Reason A	(SSmith)	4-2-1	20-1
4	Mc Angel	(JStratton)	1-1-2	3-1
5	Cheryls Shadow	(MKakaley)	6-2-2	8-1
6	Elusive A	(ASiegelman)	1-3-8	5-1
7	Dandy's Mercy	(GBrennan)	5-4-5	6-1

SEVENTH: Mile pace; $28,000; cond

1	TrueBlueHanver	(ASegelmn)	4-7-8	8-1
2	Glittering Hope	(BHolland)	4-2-4	9-2
3	Time To Strike	(MKakaley)	1-5-5	6-1
4	Aardie B Miki N	(CKelly)	7-6-2	5-2
5	Worklifebalance	(JStratton)	2-2-3	2-1
6	Strutsville	(GBrennan)	1-1-2	12-1
7	Ideal Cover	(SSmith)	2-2-3	20-1
8	Elektra A	(JMarohn)	1-4-7	5-1

EIGHTH: Mile trot; $23,000; cond

1	Khaosan Road	(JMarohn)	1-2-8	5-2
2	BusyMissLissyS	(Svanstedt)	5-3-4	5-1
3	Ma Isabelle	(PLachance)	5-3-4	9-2
4	Bjm's Lil Man	(MKakaley)	5-6-7	6-1
5	Oliver The Great	(GBrennan)	2-2-4	4-1
6	Torrone	(BHolland)	6-5-7	20-1
7	Onajetplane	(JStratton)	8-3-7	8-1
8	Pierre In Paris	(DDube)	4-1-2	20-1

NINTH: Mile trot; $19,000; cond

1	Stacking Green	(GBrennan)	1-7-6	6-5
2	Stormont Divide	(JStratton)	3-8-6	5-2
3	Father Mike	(DDube)	7-5-5	20-1
4	Songs In TheWind	(BHolland)	4-7-6	6-1
5	Crazyland	(CKelly)	8-3-3	6-1
6	Kasha V	(ASiegelman)	4-5-8	20-1
7	Lucky Mum N	(PLachance)	5-7-2	20-1
8	Diamante Trio It	(MKakaley)	2-7-7	20-1

U.S. Open tee times

Friday: (a) denotes amateur
Second Round

Tee No. 1

6:50 a.m. -- William Mouw, Ryder Cowan (a), Hennie Du Plessis
7:01 a.m. -- Adrien Saddier, Jackson Van Paris, Ugo Coussaud
7:12 a.m. -- Neal Shipley, Matti Schmid, Bud Cauley
7:23 a.m. -- Pierceson Coody, Zac Blair, Kevin Roy
7:34 a.m. -- Aaron Rai, Collin Morikawa, Jason Day
7:45 a.m. -- Bryson DeChambeau, Viktor Hovland, Matt Fitzpatrick
7:56 a.m. -- Dustin Johnson, Wyndham Clark, Gary Woodland
8:07 a.m. -- Joaquin Niemann, Alex Smalley, Shane Lowry
8:18 a.m. -- Akshay Bhatia, Carlos Ortiz, Min Woo Lee
8:29 a.m. -- Justin Rose, Jordan Spieth, Jon Rahm
8:40 a.m. -- Ben Kohles, Johnny Keefer, Matt McCarty
8:51 a.m. -- Angel Hidalgo, Mateo Pulcini (a), Spencer Tibbits
9:02 a.m. -- Matthew Robles (a), Jake Sollon, Manav Shah
12:45 p.m. -- Chandler Phillips, Harry Higgs, Hamilton Coleman (a)
12:56 p.m. -- Nathan Kimsey, Jackson Herrington (a) , Cooper Dossey
1:07 p.m. -- Peter Uihlein, Eric Lee (a), Sam Stevens
1:18 p.m. -- Adrien Dumont de Chassart, Ben Silverman, Emiliano Grillo
1:29 p.m. -- Patrick Rodgers, Keith Mitchell, Graeme McDowell
1:40 p.m. -- Sungjae Im, Lucas Herbert, Kristoffer Reitan
1:51 p.m. -- Sam Burns, Tyrrell Hatton, Si Woo Kim
2:02 p.m. -- Rory McIlroy, Ludvig Åberg, Tommy Fleetwood
2:13 p.m. -- Alex Noren, Maverick McNealy, Sepp Straka
2:24 p.m. -- Max Greyserman, Brian Harman, Jacob Bridgeman
2:35 p.m. -- Alex Fitzpatrick, Tom Kim, Ben James
2:46 p.m. -- Brandon Holtz(a), Ryuichi Oiwa, Dylan Wu
2:57 p.m. -- Greyson Leach, Logan Reilly (a) , Robbie Higgins

Tee No. 10

6:50 a.m. -- Niklas Nørgaard, Rocco Repetto Taylor, Sudarshan Yellamaraju
7:01 a.m. -- Laurie Canter, John Parry, Bryan Lee (a)
7:12 a.m. -- Chris Kirk, Max McGreevy, Jake Knapp
7:23 a.m. -- Harry Hall, Michael Brennan, Andrew Putnam
7:34 a.m. -- Davis Thompson, Preston Stout (a), David Puig
7:45 a.m. -- Ryo Hisatsune, Corey Conners, Ryan Fox
7:56 a.m. -- Ryan Gerard, Russell Henley, Ben Griffin
8:07 a.m. -- Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama, Xander Schauffele
8:18 a.m. -- Nicolai Højgaard, Nico Echavarria, Robert MacIntyre
8:29 a.m. -- J.T. Poston, Patrick Cantlay, Billy Horschel
8:40 a.m. -- Arni Sveinsson (a), Taihei Sato, Marcelo Rozo
8:51 a.m. -- Nick Hardy, Cole Hammer, Jack Schoenberger
9:02 a.m. -- Marek Fleming (a) , T.K. Kim, Giuseppe Puebla (a)
12:45 p.m. -- James Nicholas, Taylor Montgomery, Caleb Surratt
12:56 p.m. -- Ethan Fang (a), Jayden Schaper, Jackson Suber
1:07 p.m. -- Chase Kyes (a), Matthew Jordan, Alejandro Tosti
1:18 p.m. -- Carl Yuan, Brandon Wu, Jimmy Stanger
1:29 p.m. -- Padraig Harrington, Miles Russell (a) , Cameron Smith
1:40 p.m. -- Brooks Koepka, Cameron Young, Chris Gotterup
1:51 p.m. -- Daniel Berger, Keegan Bradley, Rickie Fowler
2:02 p.m. -- Patrick Reed, Andrew Novak, Kurt Kitayama
2:13 p.m. -- Harris English, Adam Scott, Nick Taylor
2:24 p.m.57 -- Mason Howell (a), Scottie Scheffler, J.J. Spaun
2:35 p.m. -- Sahith Theegala, Jackson Koivun (a), Michael Kim
2:46 p.m. -- J.B. Holmes, Filippo Celli, Jackson Ormond (a)
2:57 p.m. -- Jake Peacock, Vaughn Harber (a), Kaito Onishi

The POST Line

MLB
Friday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	**$205-250**	Reds
TIGERS	**$186-231**	White Sox
Guardians	**-102-120**	ASTROS
ATHLETICS	**OFF**	Angels
MARINERS	**$108-132**	Boston
MARLINS	**OFF**	Giants
Brewers	**$138-164**	BRAVES
Pirates	**$113-137**	ROCKIES
CUBS	**-102-116**	Blue Jays
Nationals	**$101-123**	RAYS
RANGERS	**$129-158**	Padres
Cardinals	**-101-121**	ROYALS
D’BACKS	**$137-166**	Twins
DODGERS	**$156-192**	Orioles

Home team in CAPS

CFL
Friday

Favorite	PTS O/U)	Underdog
Lions	**1.5 (59.5)**	TIGER-CATS

WNBA
Friday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIBERTY	**12.5 (167.5)**	Mystucs
SUN	**1.5 (167.5)**	Tempo
Lynx	**2.5 (166.5)**	Valkyries

FIFA World Cup
Friday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Morocco	**$140-400**	Scotland
**Brazil	**$800-1800**	Haiti
***Turkey	**$100-280**	Paraguay

*Foxborough, Mass., **Philadelphia,
***Santa Clara, Calif.

Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Netherlands	**$140-375**	Sweden
**Germany	**$190-450**	Ivory Coast
***Ecuador	**$900-2000**	Curacao
****Japan	**$190-525**	Tunisia

*Houston, **Toronto, ***Kansas City, Mo.,
****Monterrey, Mexico

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Blue Jays sweep Red Sox

Brandon Valenzuela hit a go-ahead RBI double off **Aroldis Chapman** with two outs in the ninth inning, and the Blue Jays completed a three-game sweep of the Red Sox with a 4-3 win Thursday in Boston.

Valenzuela’s tiebreaking hit clanked off the Green Monster and came after Red Sox catcher **Connor Wong** misplayed a pop-up in foul territory that would have been the final out of the ninth.

- In Arlington, Texas, **Brooks Lee** hit a three-run homer as Minnesota scored multiple runs in the first inning for the third consecutive game, and the Twins went on to complete a series sweep of the Rangers with a 9-3 win.
- In Milwaukee, **Travis Bazzana** hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh inning, **Parker Messick** pitched six effective innings and the Guardians beat the Brewers 4-2. **David Fry** and **Kyle Manzardo** also homered for the Guardians, who lost the first two games of the series.
- In Seattle, **Bryan Woo** pitched seven shutout innings, **Colt Emerson** drove in two of Seattle’s three first-inning runs and the Mariners beat the Orioles 3-0.
- In Kansas City, Mo., **Bobby Witt Jr.** hit the first of Kansas City’s three home runs before leaving with a sore right knee, and the Royals smacked a club-record five doubles in a six-run second inning Thursday night on the way to a 14-6 victory over the Cardinals.
- Angels outfielder **Mike Trout** is back on the injured list. The team announced before Thursday night’s game against the Athletics that the 11-time All-Star was placed on the 10-day IL because of a right hamstring strain.

NHL: Babcock cleared to coach

The NHL said it completed a review of **Mike Babcock**’s tenure in Columbus and cleared him to coach the Oilers if they opt to hire him. The league launched an investigation at the request of the NHL Players’ Association in light of Edmonton’s interest in hiring Babcock. The league said in a statement that even in the least favorable light, there was no basis to restrict Babcock’s employment.

- The Capitals signed coach **Spencer Carbery** to a multiyear contract extension. The team announced the move Thursday and did not provide any additional details on the length or terms of the deal.

The 44-year-old Carbery is 134-83-29 with Washington. The Capitals are eighth in the league in point percentage since hiring him.

NCAA: Sorsby drops lawsuit

Brendan Sorsby dropped his lawsuit against the NCAA, making the quarterback ineligible again and ending his college career because of gambling.

The expected motion for dismissal of the suit was filed Thursday in the 99th District Court in Lubbock County. That was three days after Texas Tech said he wouldn’t play this fall, and exactly a month after Sorsby filed his lawsuit that set off a legal saga that rattled college sports.

GOLF: Liu tops Meijer Classic

Yan Liu of China shot a 6-under 66 in chilly and windy conditions to take the first-round lead in the Meijer LPGA Classic. Liu closed with a birdie on the par-5 18th at Blythefield Country Club. The 28-year-old player is winless on the LPGA Tour.

TOP PLAY

USA to keep on rollin’

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

The United States sent a statement in its opening match at the World Cup.

The Yanks were quick, fluid and clinical in front of goal, pasting Paraguay 4-1. It was comprehensive.

The victory also put the Stars and Stripes in position to clinch Group D on Friday. They’ll need a win against Australia and some help from Paraguay against Turkey, but it’s already within reach.

There was never a question about the talent in the American ranks, but rather whether Mauricio Pochettino could find the right balance.

He did just that against Paraguay. Team USA was aggressive and decisive and never let La Albirroja settle into the match.

Australia won’t look too different from Paraguay. The Socceroos will stay compact and organized on defense and look to punish the Americans in transition through Nestory Irankunda.

Irankunda ran rampant against Turkey, but the Crescent-Stars don’t have the security blanket that the Americans have in midfield with Tyler Adams and Weston McKennie.

If the United States is on song, it can beat you in a variety of ways, which will make it a lot tougher for the Aussies to keep a lid on this match. Bet on another statement from Team USA.

THE PLAY: Team USA -1.5 goals (+142, FanDuel).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			’25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Blue Jays	Gausman (R)		4-4	3.41	8-7	0-1	2.57	3-4	0-1	18.0	4.50
Cubs	TBD	(2:20pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reds	Lowder (R)		3-3	4.60	5-5	—	—	—	0-1	11.2	3.09
Yankees	Schlittler (R)	(7:10pm)	7-3	1.82	11-4	—	—	—	0-1	17.0	3.18
Nationals	Cavalli (R)		4-4	3.98	5-10	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	15.0	5.40
Rays	Jax (R)	(7:10pm)	1-5	3.68	4-5	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-2	14.0	3.86
Padres	Vásquez (R)		6-4	3.63	9-5	0-0	3.00	0-0	1-1	14.0	5.14
Rangers	deGrom (R)	(8:05pm)	5-4	3.17	8-6	0-0	0.00	6-3	2-0	17.0	1.06
Cardinals	McGreevy (R)		3-5	2.99	7-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	18.0	3.00
Royals	Lugo (R)	(8:15pm)	2-4	3.86	6-8	0-0	0.00	2-0	0-0	14.1	4.40
Twins	Prielipp (L)		2-4	5.26	3-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	16.1	5.51
D’backs	Soroka (R)	(9:45pm)	8-3	3.11	8-6	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-1	20.0	2.70
Orioles	Gibson (R)		1-2	5.91	1-3	—	—	—	1-2	14.2	6.14
Dodgers	Sasaki (R)	(10:10pm)	3-4	4.76	5-7	—	—	—	0-1	16.2	4.32
White Sox	Fedde (R)		2-5	4.50	4-4	0-0	4.50	0-1	1-0	13.0	4.15
Tigers	Skubal (L)	(6:40pm)	3-3	2.81	4-4	0-0	0.00	8-2	0-1	17.2	4.08
Guardians	Bibee (R)		2-7	3.96	4-11	0-1	3.00	0-1	2-0	21.0	2.14
Astros	Imai (R)	(8:10pm)	3-3	6.43	5-4	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	11.2	6.94
Angels	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Athletics	Springs (L)	(9:40pm)	3-7	5.13	5-10	—	—	2-3	0-1	12.2	10.66
Red Sox	Suarez (L)		2-3	3.21	6-7	1-0	2.70	2-0	0-0	16.1	3.86
Mariners	Miller (R)	(10:10pm)	3-0	1.54	3-2	0-1	7.71	0-3	2-0	19.0	0.95
Giants	Roupp (R)		5-7	4.24	5-9	1-0	3.52	1-0	0-2	14.1	8.16
Marlins	TBD	(7:10pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewers	Misiorowski (R)		8-2	1.34	9-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	3-0	23.0	0.00
Braves	Pérez (L)	(7:15pm)	5-3	2.90	6-4	0-0	0.00	0-3	3-0	15.1	3.52
Pirates	Chandler (R)		2-7	4.76	4-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	15.2	5.74
Rockies	Freeland (L)	(8:40pm)	1-7	7.98	3-9	0-1	9.00	3-5	0-1	16.1	7.71

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher’s team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Hungry for a W? Feddiccini’s ready!

Looks like there will be no parade for the Tigers this year. Their ace Tarik Skubal had issues with “loose bodies.” No, nothing to do with any strip club in Detroit. The “loose bodies” were in his pitching elbow. Skubal allowed two runs over $4\,^{2}/_{3}$ limited innings in a loss at Cleveland upon his return. The White Sox’ Erick Fedde has given up one run in his past $12\,^{2}/_{3}$. Bet $50 on Fedde and the Sox.

-$

Miserable day for Red Sox fans at Fenway. Not only did the Sox lose to the Jays, but Scotland’s ever-thirsty “Tartan Army” infiltrated the stadium. No bagpipes, but by the 2nd inning there was no scotch left and the only beer available was a warm case of Schlitz. ... As for the game, the Jays led 3-0 thanks to homers by Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Nathan Lukes but blew the lead. Brandon Valenzuela’s blast off the Green Monster in the 9th scored the winning run. Blue Jays won it 4-3. The beers are on me. Win has us at -121 ricopetrocellis.

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Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 19	SAT June 20	SUN June 21	MON June 22	TUE June 23
	Cincinnati 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cincinnati 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Cincinnati 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	NO GAME	Philadelphia 7:15 Fox 880 AM	Philadelphia 7:20 NBC Peacock 880 AM	Cubs 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Cubs 7:10 SNY 880 AM
	Washington 7:30 ION	NO GAME	Los Angeles 8:00 ESPN	NO GAME	Las Vegas 10:00 My9 USA

Wednesday, July 22	Wednesday, July 22	Friday, June 26
FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	KC Current 8:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL

7 p.m.	Brewers at Braves	MLBN
7:05 p.m.	Reds at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
8:10 p.m.	Cardinals at Royals	Apple TV
9:40 p.m.	Twins at Diamondbacks	Apple TV
10 p.m.	Red Sox at Mariners	MLBN

WNBA BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.	Mystics at Liberty	ION
10 p.m.	Lynx at Valkyries	ION

MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP

3 p.m.	Group Stage: United States vs. Australia	Fox, Telemundo
6 p.m.	Group Stage: Scotland vs. Morocco	Fox, Telemundo
8:30 p.m.	Group Stage: Brazil vs. Haiti	Fox, Telemundo
11 p.m.	Group Stage: Turkey vs. Paraguay	FS1, Telemundo

GOLF

6:30 a.m.	PGA Tour: U.S. Open, 2nd Round	NBCSN
1:30 p.m.	PGA Tour: U.S. Open, 2nd Round	NBC
3 p.m.	LPGA Tour: Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give, 2nd Round	Golf

MEN'S SOCCER

7 p.m.	USL League One: Portland Hearts of Pine at Westchester SC	MSG

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

6:30 p.m.	Norfolk Tides at Syracuse Mets	SNY

SOFTBALL

9 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Cascade	ESPN2

AUTO RACING

Noon	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: Race at San Diego, Practice	FS2
1 p.m.	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: Race at San Diego, Qual.	FS2
3 p.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Road America - Race 2, Practice	FS2
4 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Xpel Grand Prix at Road America, Practice	FS2
5 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Anduril 250, Practice	Prime Video
7 p.m.	NASCAR CRAFTSMAN Truck Series: Race at San Diego	FS1

HORSE RACING

Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
3 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2

RUGBY

12:55 a.m.(Sat.)	NRL: Dolphins at Wests Tigers	FS2

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

8 p.m.	AVP: Week 4	PIX11
10 p.m.	AVP: Week 4	CBSSN

SWIMMING

6 p.m.	TYR: Pro Swim Series	NBCSN

NBA

2026-27 NBA champion

TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS	TEAM	ODDS
Thunder	+250	Timberwolves	33/1	Clippers	70/1
Spurs	+250	Rockets	40/1	Magic	80/1
Celtics	+550	Pacers	40/1	Warriors	80/1
Knicks	**+800**	Cavaliers	40/1	Hornets	80/1
Nuggets	22/1	Heat	45/1	Raptors	100/1
Pistons	25/1	Hawks	50/1	Trail Blazers	100/1
Lakers	30/1	76ers	60/1	Suns	150/1

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP
Friday
USA vs. Australia

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
USA	-165
Draw	+330
Australia	+410

TOTAL GOALS	ODDS
Over 1.5	-350
Under 1.5	+265
Over 2.5	-106
Under 2.5	-114
Over 3.5	+235
Under 3.5	-300

HALFTIME SCORE	ODDS
USA	+110
Draw	+125
Australia	+440

BOTH TEAMS SCORE	ODDS
Yes	-102
No	-126

ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	ODDS
Folarin Balogun (USA)	+155
Christian Pulisic (USA)	+175
Gio Reyna (USA)	+270
Malik Tillman (USA)	+280
Mohamed Touré (Aus)	+320
Tim Weah (USA)	+360
Nestory Irankunda (Aus)	+430
Sebastian Berhalter (USA)	+440
Weston McKennie (USA)	+440
Sergiño Dest (USA)	+550
Nishan Velupillay (Aus)	+550
Connor Metcalfe (Aus)	+700

TEAM EXACT GOALS	ODDS
USA 0	+410
USA 1	+200
USA 2	+240
USA 3	+440
USA 4 or more	+650
Australia 0	+105
Australia 1	+155
Australia 2	+480
Australia 3	17/1
Australia 4 or more	50/1

WINNING MARGIN	ODDS
USA by exactly 1 goal	+270
USA by exactly 2 goals	+360
Australia by exactly 1 goal	+600
USA by exactly 3 goals	+700
0-0 draw	11/1
USA by 4 or more goals	11/1
Australia by exactly 2 goals	16/1
Australia by exactly 3 goals	50/1
Australia by 4 or more goals	100/1

WILL A PENALTY BE AWARDED?	ODDS
Yes	+200

USA TOP GOAL SCORER IN TOURNAMENT	ODDS
Folarin Balogun	-550
Gio Reyna	+800
Christian Pulisic	18/1
Malik Tillman	22/1
Ricardo Pepi	27/1
Weston McKennie	27/1

BET SMART

Kape & Kyoji will take it to the limit

Getty Images

TO THE JUDGES: Saturday's UFC main event between Manel Kape (above) and Kyoji Horiguchi will be settled by decision, predicts Post expert Erich Richter.

By ERICH RICHTER

After one of the biggest sporting events of the year, the UFC returns to its Apex venue.

Last week's card at the White House was incredible for the promotion. They absolutely nailed the production, from walkouts to aesthetics, and the fights themselves were action-packed.

Regardless of how you feel about cage fights on the South Lawn, the UFC expects plenty of new fans to be tuning in to the product.

Below, we break down all 12 fights this weekend and give our best bets for UFC Vegas 119.

Manel Kape vs. Kyoji Horiguchi

These two flyweights fought each other many moons ago, as Horiguchi submitted Kape in 2017 when they both fought under the Japan-based Rizin banner.

Kape was just 23 years old at the time and has improved dramatically since then, making him the -172 favorite in this rematch.

Horiguchi probably has more paths to victory in this fight, as he's plenty competent on the feet when striking and represents a clear grappling advantage should he need that.

Kape has done a good job of defensive grappling of late and has an 81 percent takedown defense rate.

Still, I really trust Horiguchi's defense not to get knocked out by Kape.

I think this fight goes the distance, which comes in at plus-money on Polymarket, while the rest of the wagering market is -110.

Prediction: Fight goes the distance (+101, Polymarket).

Ion Cutelaba vs. Navajo Stirling

Another co-main event spot for Cutelaba, who comes in as a highly entertaining fighter in the light heavyweight division, having won three of his last four.

There are a ton of questions surrounding Cutelaba. He's just 20-11, and looking back, he had a three-fight skid against Ryan Spann, Johnny Walker and Kennedy Nzechukwu in 2022. None of those losses have aged well at all and are borderline embarrassing.

Stirling has been dominant in his short MMA career, going 9-0 and defeating some legitimate talent in Rodolfo Bellato.

From a betting perspective, this fight is +175 to go the distance on BetRivers, and Stirling has shown a willingness to go the distance with three of his last four hitting the cards.

Stirling is a patient striker, and Cutelaba is anything but patient. Still, I think this is a spot to look for a longer fight than the odds are giving credit for.

Take a look at Over 1.5 rounds at -160 on bet365 and target Stirling's moneyline for parlays.

I also like the decision line as five of their last 10 fights combined have gone to decision (three for Stirling and two for Cutelaba).

Predictions: Over 1.5 rounds (-160, bet365); fight goes the distance (+175, BetRivers).

Rest of the card

Hyder Amil vs. Christian Rodriguez: Fight goes the distance (-124, FanDuel)

Melsik Baghdasaryan vs. Murtazali Magomedov: Magomedov by submission (+260, FanDuel).

Vinicius Oliveira vs. Andre Fili: Oliveira moneyline for parlays.

Andre Lima vs. Kevin Borjas: Under 1.5 rounds (+220, Hard Rock Bet).

Bia Mesquita vs. Melissa Mullins: Fight goes the distance (+240, Fanatics).

Allan Nascimento vs. Mitch Raposo: Nascimento ML for parlays (-183, Kalshi).

Gaston Bolanos vs. Michael Aswell Jr.: Michael Aswell Jr. by submission (13/1, BetRivers).

Leon Shahbazyan vs. Levan Chokheli: Under 1.5 rounds (-190, bet365).

Karol Rosa vs. Luana Santos: Rosa by decision (+110, Fanatics Sportsbook).

Shane Collins vs. Otari Tanzilovi: Pass.

DIAMOND GRADE

Smithtown 16-year-old — world's No. 2 ranked jiujitsu teen — eyes UFC future

By ALEX MITCHELL

Long Island has a true gem in jiujitsu star Diamond Armello.

The Smithtown 16-year-old has a sparkling future ahead as the world's second-ranked teen in the martial art, with a record that speaks for itself.

"I've had over 400 fights — and it's over 400 wins," Armello told The Post after a training session at Vanguard Academy in Lake Grove.

"I think I've lost maybe 12 times, or 20," added the 5-foot-6, 130-pounder.

Mighty Armello — opponents fear his merciless armbar — has earned the respect of the combat sports community, notably from Long Island UFC star Matt "Steamrolla" Frevola, who trains with the teenager.

"This kid keeps me on my toes. ... I always try not to use my strength and size on him, but then again, he's so good sometimes I have to," said the 155-pound Frevola, 36.

"He's in here every day, working his a-- off."

Diamond in the rough

Armello first hit the mats at 11, and he was promoted to adult classes just months into learning jiujitsu.

He came in with a chip on his shoulder and said priority No. 1 was earning the respect of his older peers.

"It took a while for them, but they eventually realized that I can handle myself," Armello said.

Things are at the point now where other fighters often come to him for advice or to watch him do a move right.

"Even though I'm the youngest, I know a lot of stuff ... normally, you can't get your blue belt until the day you become 16. I got mine 10 months early."

There was something else Armello had been grappling with as a tween that led him to pursue jiujitsu and ultimately helped him discover his unrivaled skills.

"I used to get picked on a lot. I wanted to learn how to defend myself if I ever needed to," he said.

Armello ultimately learned peace through the art of war and never had to lay a hand on a bully. Dopey teens have been wise to back off after he gave a verbal warning of what could happen next.

Armello attributes restraint and maturity beyond his years to what he learns in the studio.

"I keep my self-control — a lot of self-control," he said.

Time to shine

Companions and training partners at Vanguard have become an incredibly positive influence on Armello's life and a major reason he can rise above teenage sophomoric behavior.

"I've made a lot of really cool friends here," he said.

The role models he rolls with have also encouraged Diamond to keep doing the right things outside the room, and he's proudly taken the discipline principles of jiujitsu into the classrooms of Smithtown East as well.

"When I look back, I'm like, 'wow,' where I came from academically. I used to be a C, D student. Now I'm an A, B student," said the math lover.

"And, if I don't study, my mom's not going to let me come to jiujitsu," he said, laughing.

The rising 11th grader already has a succession plan laid out for after high school, starting with entering the UFC at age 18.

Similar to fellow Long Island fighters Aljamain Sterling and Al Iaquinta, Armello plans to flip houses as a real estate agent on the side.

"I also plan on opening my own gym," Armello said. "I can't wait to give back to my community."

When it comes time to debut in the Octagon, he knows who to call to be ready.

"I've definitely got to keep working with Steamrolla on striking to get to that UFC level," Armello said. "He always brings the pain to us."

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UFC
BLACK ARMOR
SUBMISSION GRAPPLING LEVEL BACK

MAT'S INCREDIBLE: Diamond Armello, 16, spars with Joey Panetta, 26, at Vanguard Academy in Smithtown. Armello has caught the attention of UFC fighter Matt Frevola (left).

Stephen Yang (2)

Inspired by the champs

The Knicks just made their hoop dreams a reality.

New York's heroes in orange and blue are inspiring an entire generation of players ready to take the game to new heights at their Long Island high school gyms next fall, as these teens learned that anything is possible from the 2026 NBA champs.

"The Knicks had to wait a long time, but it came, and I feel like for anybody, you just take that into your own life," Sachem North forward Jacob Steffens told The Post of snapping the 53-year drought.

"We haven't made a long playoff run in a long time, we haven't won our league in 20 years, so I think it could just keep going after it," added his teammate, guard Sean Galvan.

Greenport guard and all-county star Troy Myers is taking in a lot of the Knicks' recipe for success that he'll bring to the Porters next year.

"Nobody on their team has egos; everybody plays together. I just love how they all bond together, even in tough times," said Myers, who recently moved from North Carolina and fell in love with the Knicks. "When games get tougher, we all just have to stay together. ... When we get down, we just can't let ourselves be down about it. We've had to keep going and just keep pushing."

Delaney Walters of New York state Catholic league champion St. Mary's High School learned something similar from Jalen Brunson's bunch.

"A big thing about them this year was just never giving up. ... They definitely didn't sulk when something didn't go right, like they just kept their head up and they just kept playing," the guard said.

"They taught me when things aren't going how I plan them to go on the court, or if my shots aren't falling, not to keep my head down, just keep my head up, and just go for the next play," she added.

Other champs, like Matt Grande (right, at the parade Thursday) of the Nassau title-winning South Side Cyclones, relate to being counted out prematurely after their star guard, John Pericolosi, got injured midyear.

NEVER SLEPT. ALWAYS DREAMED
NEW YORK
11

Courtesy Matt Grande

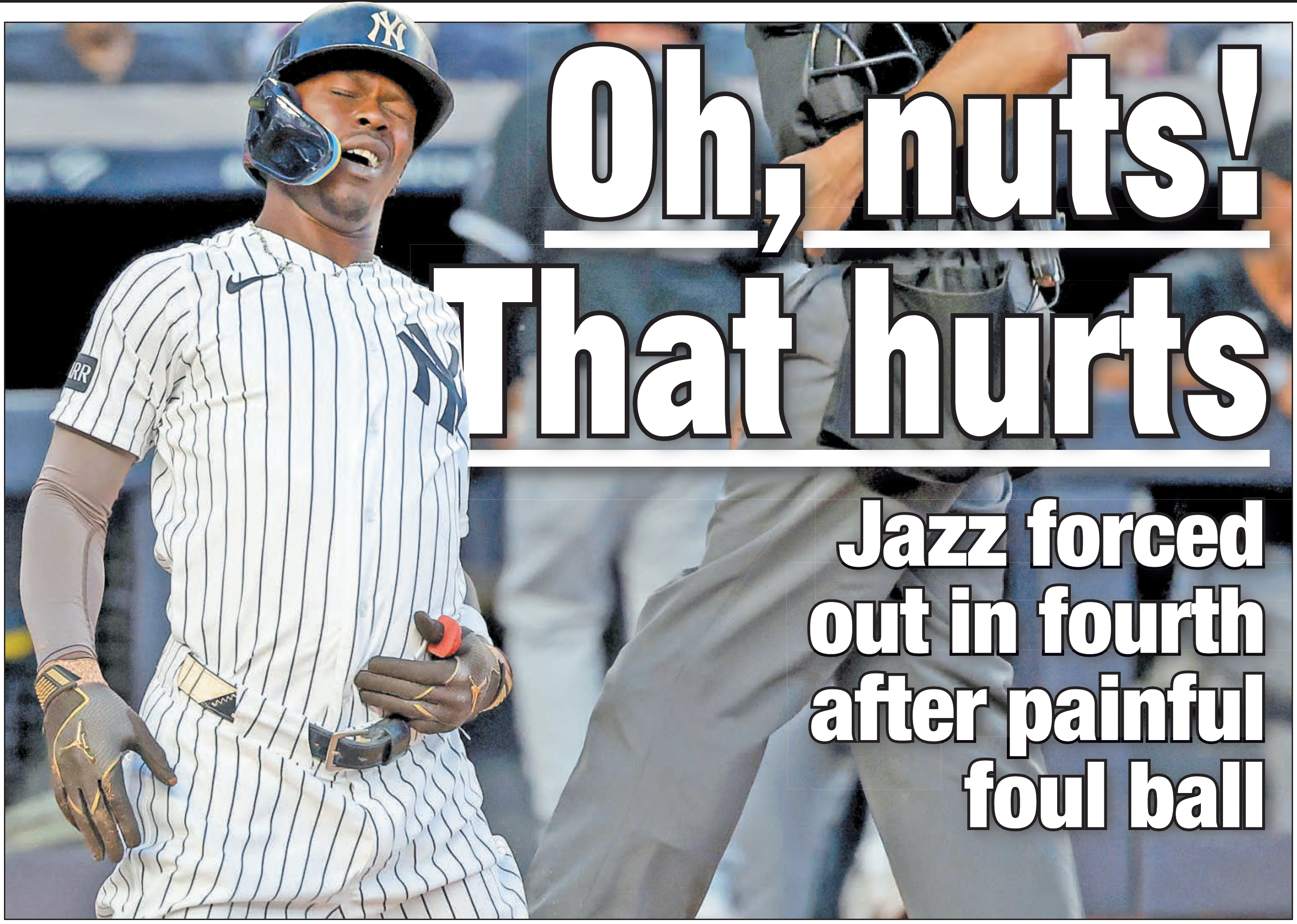
"The Knicks are an underdog story because they were just so bad for so long, I feel like that's kind of the same way with us," said the guard.

"Everybody wants to win again. I feel like that was with the Knicks, too — the last guy on the bench to Brunson and the starters encouraging each other ... that's a big role we saw with the Knicks to bring to our gym."

— Alex Mitchell

Oh, nuts! That hurts

Jazz forced out in fourth after painful foul ball



LEAVING ON A SOUR NOTE: Jazz Chisholm Jr. was unable to stay in the game Thursday against the White Sox after fouling a ball that bounced and struck him in the groin area. Chisholm regained his footing but was removed by manager Aaron Boone. Robert Sabo

By DAN MARTIN

Jazz Chisholm Jr. was forced out of Thursday's 5-1 loss to the White Sox in one of the most painful ways imaginable.

During an at-bat in the bottom of the fourth, Chisholm fouled a ball straight off the ground near the plate, and the ball took an unfortunate bounce and hit Chisholm near the groin area.

YANKS NOTES

The second baseman crumbled to the ground and remained there for several moments before Aaron Boone and the training staff came out to check on Chisholm, who eventually got to his feet but was clearly still in discomfort.

Unable to continue, Chisholm was removed from the game, and Anthony Volpe entered to finish the at-bat.

Volpe ended up drawing a walk against Chicago right-hander Sean Burke but was thrown out trying to steal second to end the inning.

Volpe remained in the game at shortstop, while José Caballero, who started the game at short, moved to second.

Boone said after the game the Yankees were still waiting to find out the severity of the injury, but the manager was "hoping" Chisholm was OK.

➤ **Austin Wells'** comeback from the cervical headaches that landed him on the IL on June 6 took a step forward Thursday, as the catcher hit a pair of homers during a minor league rehab game with Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

Prior to the Yankees closing out their series against the White Sox in The Bronx, Boone said the organization hadn't made a decision as to whether Wells would come back for Friday's game against the Reds, but they were "leaning" toward keeping him with SWB, especially since they were rained out Wednesday, robbing Wells of a day on the field, and they have a doubleheader Friday.

Boone said Wells, now over the headaches that sent him to the IL and kept **J.C. Escarra** in The Bronx, has worked with **Jarret DeHart**, the organization's director of hitting, while with SWB.

"He's had some good days of work," Boone said of Wells, who went hitless in his first rehab game on Tuesday. "He's getting some results. We want to keep building on that."

Whether that translates to the majors is a different story, and as The Post's Joel Sherman has reported, they could be in the market for a right-handed-hitting backstop to go along with Wells, with Minnesota's **Ryan Jeffers** a potential target.

➤ Also at SWB, top prospect **George Lombard Jr.** was placed on the seven-day IL with what the Yankees termed "sprained fingers" in his left hand after he was slid into while covering second base on a stolen-base attempt Tuesday.

Despite the IL stint, Boone said there were "good initial signs on testing" and nothing else showed up, so the Yankees hope it's a short absence for the shortstop.

The 21-year-old has played almost exclusively at short since Volpe has been back in the majors and is considered major league ready at the position.

It's unclear whether the Yankees would be willing to turn the spot over to Lombard after he started the season with Double-A Somerset and only recently began hitting at Triple-A.

➤ On the bullpen front, **Carlos Lagrange** made his fourth relief appearance with SWB, and while he nearly touched 100 mph, the right-hander had mixed results over his 1 2/3-inning outing.

He allowed four runs — none earned — but gave up two hits and walked a pair without recording a strikeout.

The Yankees are in the process of transitioning him from the rotation, so the 23-year-old is pitching more frequently. He is expected to join the Yankees bullpen at some point next month.

Ex-Iona hoops player admits he OK'd plot to fix games

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Gambling busts continue to plague the NCAA.

Former Iona men's basketball player Adam Njie Jr. admitted telling a sports bettor he would intentionally tank the first half of two games during the 2024-25 season.

According to an NCAA ruling released Thursday, the former Iona guard agreed to participate in the point-shaving scheme ahead of two games in December 2024 to help bettors cash in on first-half spreads.

ADAM NJIE

Investigators discovered the case after interviewing a source tied to a separate sports wagering probe in July and September 2025. That source told NCAA enforcement officials that one of two bettors had communicated with Njie.

During the NCAA's investigation, the Mississippi Gaming Commission reported that one bettor placed three wagers totaling $15,500 on Rice to cover the first-half spread against Iona on Dec. 1, 2024.

Njie acknowledged telling the bettor before the game that he would "throw" the first half. However, he said he never followed through with it.

The bettor allegedly wasn't too understanding.

The bettor physically threatened Njie after losing money on the Rice wager. In response, Njie told him he would throw the first half of Iona's Dec. 6 game against Sacred Heart to make up for the blow.

Again, Njie told investigators he never intentionally manipulated the game.

The NCAA said digital evidence confirmed communications between Njie and the bettor, as well as the bettor's subsequent threats.

Investigators did not substantiate game manipulation, but the NCAA noted that Njie's actions were still deemed a major integrity violation.

"The act of sharing information with a bettor is prohibited by NCAA legislation and is treated the same as point shaving from an NCAA enforcement perspective," the NCAA said in a statement.

The violations were classified as Level I — the NCAA's most serious category. Njie has been declared permanently ineligible for NCAA competition, while Iona University's athletics site has taken down his player profile page.

The Bronx native transferred to Dayton ahead of last season but did not play again after the first two preseason games due to "potential eligibility concerns." He had just signed with Hampton University in Virginia last month.

Both of the bettors involved were indicted in January 2026 by federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on wire fraud and bribery charges related to sports contests.

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CLEARING A PATH

Scarsdale native Nicholas using his Oakmont experience at U.S. Open

USGA
NICHOLAS
MONTGOMERY
SURRATT
USGA
USGA

By MARK CANNIZZARO

James Nicholas has been here before, so he's doing his best not to get overly excited.

The 29-year-old, who grew up in Scarsdale, qualified for his first U.S. Open a year ago at Oakmont, where he shot a 1-under-par 69 in the opening round, which had him tied for sixth.

Nicholas followed that with a 78 in the second round, which was enough to make the cut and play the weekend, finishing tied for 61st at 19 over par.

This time around, Nicholas, who plays his golf on the Korn Ferry Tour, expects more from himself in what he hopes are the next three rounds.

He opened with a 1-over-par 71 on Thursday at Shinnecock and is tied for 29th entering Friday's second round.

"Last year after Round 1, I was T-6 in the U.S. Open, then Round 2, I struggled, because I put all that pressure on to myself, and you have expectation," he said. "I talked to my mental coach, Joe Perron, about fear of failure. It's something that I struggle with. I want to do so well. Once I put myself in position, you get scared, you have this fear of failure."

Nicholas is leaning into his 2025 Oakmont experience to make his Shinnecock experience better.

"I got my first taste of a U.S. Open last year at Oakmont, and that was a lot different than this year for many reasons, one being this is my home state," Nicholas said Thursday. "You dream about playing in your home state, your home U.S. Open."

Accentuating this experience of playing near home with family and friends in the gallery, Nicholas struck the first tee shot of the 126th U.S. Open at 6:45 a.m. amid the morning fog, something he called "an honor."

"You dream of hitting the first tee shot under some pressure," he said. "I didn't hit the best one, but I ended up making a par and just to kind of continue the day with a lot of grit was pretty cool."

Nicholas actually seized the early lead with birdies on Nos. 3 and 6 that got him to 2 under par with the outright lead. A double bogey on the par-3 seventh hole erased the birdies, but he hung in the rest of the round.

Nicholas, once an accomplished youth hockey player whose close friend is Bruins star Charlie McAvoy (a Long Island native), went to Yale to play football and opted to concentrate on golf.

He's become an accomplished photographer who's very active on social media, chronicling his worldwide travels and has his own YouTube channel.

He said he put Meta glasses on when he woke up at 3:55 a.m. Thursday to chronicle his day.

"I'm trying to film some behind the scenes of what it's like to play in the U.S. Open," he said.

Nicholas' father is Dr. Stephen Nicholas, who was the longtime Jets orthopedist. Stephen's father, James, served in that role before him and was responsible for fixing Joe Namath's knees.

Positive attitude and life perspective are Nicholas' superpowers as a player, and he's trying to lean into that more often.

"Yeah, I'm a golfer, I'm playing in the U.S. Open this week, but that's not my identity," he said. "I think I struggled with that as a kid. I played a lot of sports. I was a hockey player, a football player. I played lacrosse, basketball, you name it. I defined myself as an athlete. That was sort of the only thing I did. I didn't hang out with friends. I studied, and I played sports.

"As I get older, you sort of have this perspective change. We're playing a silly game."

But ...

"This is my dream," he said, "and this is what I aspire to be."

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Keegan can't shake his Ryder Cup

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD
and MARK CANNIZZARO

U.S. OPEN NOTES

Nine months later, Keegan Bradley still can't shake the feeling of losing the Ryder Cup on home soil at Bethpage Black.

As a matter of fact, it's one that he doesn't anticipate moving on from, especially this week, now that he's back on Long Island for the U.S. Open. Bradley shot even par during the first day of the tournament, battling through a two-hour delay because of fog and the whipping winds that make Shinnecock Hills so tough.

Still, failing to win the Ryder Cup as Team USA's captain last fall stings.

"I'll be thinking about that for the rest of my life," Bradley said. "I do feel like I owe New York one. Maybe I can give them something to cheer about this weekend."

If there was any ill will from area golf fans for the letdown last fall, Bradley didn't feel it while out on the course during the first round. He had a share of the lead at one point when he eagled on the eighth hole to go 1 under.

"I never know what to expect," he said of the fan reception. "I would understand if they were upset, but I didn't get any of that. I haven't really at all. I'm really thankful for that."

➤ One of the quirkiest pairings of the first two rounds had 54-year-old **Padraig Harrington** grouped with 17-year-old amateur **Miles Russell**.

Harrington won three major championships — 2007 and 2008 British Opens, and the 2008 PGA Championship — before Russell was born, in November 2008.

Russell, a Jacksonville, Fla., native

WEATHER OR NOT: Scarsdale native James Nicholas marched through the fog (front, in red sweater) to start Thursday's first round of the U.S. Open. Later, he had shed the sweater despite a worrisome shot on No. 13. Getty Images

Stevens gets a new attitude

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

A change of attitude seemed to be exactly what Sam Stevens needed coming into the U.S. Open. He was more than willing to admit that after finishing the first round of the tournament Thursday.

Stevens had come to Shinnecock Hills after he missed the cut at the Memorial Tournament and had not finished better than 42nd in three starts prior to that. It led him to come to one big realization.

"I've had a really crappy attitude, which makes golf a lot harder," he said. "So I got a week at home last week and just kind of focusing on trying to stay positive and kind of enjoy playing a little more. I've played well this year. I just haven't had maybe the best last month or so. So I'm not super surprised, but I'm grateful to shoot a couple under."

Stevens finished the first round with the clubhouse lead after shooting a 2 under par during a wonky day on Long Island that included a two-hour delay because of fog that interrupted the start to his round.

The Fort Worth, Texas, native still has yet to win a PGA Tour event but has been off to a strong start in 2026, making the cut in all but one of his 13 starts, and even finished fifth in the Texas Children's Houston Open in March and sixth in the American Express in January.

Part of the attitude adjustment that Stevens gave himself involved removing the pressure he had been creating for himself. He was also able to gain "a little perspective" after spending a week at home.

"Just maybe having a little too high expectations," he said. "Then the moment that those expectations aren't met, being a little more upset than I need to be. No broken clubs or anything yet. So that's good.

"It's kind of one of those things. It's a long season. I played a lot in the first half of the season. It's easy to get worn down a little bit, and I just haven't been as on top of keeping a good attitude as I should have been."

Stevens birdied Nos. 1, 3, 5, 9, 11 and 17 during his round, while only bogeying twice and putting up one double bogey on the 10th hole.

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Sam Stevens

Imagn mages

disappointment in first Long Island tournament since

who's about to enter Florida State, shot a 2-over-par 72, bettering Harrington (7-over) and 2022 British Open winner Cam Smith (5 over) as the low man in the group.

"He played lovely golf," Harrington said. "Two over par was the worst he could have shot. He hit it dead straight all day, didn't really have himself in too much trouble at all, and probably could have been a couple better.

"At 17 years of age ... I can't remember what I was doing when I was 17 years of age. I'm sure it's all ahead of him."

Russell embraced playing with a veteran like Harrington, saying, "It's always good to play with a guy like that. Anything you can pick up from him — whether it's the way he acts, the way he walks, the way he interacts with people — it's always good to play with experienced guys."

Asked what the best compliment he's received from the pros this week has been, Russell said, "Maybe my demeanor. I like to think I'm pretty cool, calm, and collected ... just kind of go with the flow. I smile a lot for the most part, whether things are going good or bad. It's hard not to smile playing the U.S. Open at 17."

➤ **Brooks Koepka** didn't play like he had been dealing with any sort of issue with his hand Thursday, though he sounded like he would have liked to have played better during his opening round, shooting 3 over par by the end.

Koepka shot for birdie on Nos. 5, 6 and 9, though he bogeyed twice and double-bogeyed twice. The 2018 U.S. Open champ said he putted "pretty good" but "didn't do much too great after that."

Koepka had entered this year's U.S. Open dealing with a flare-up in his ulnar nerve that had created a tingly sensation in his ring and pinky fingers, which had impacted his ability to grip the club.

➤ Among the locals competing in this year's U.S. Open, **Max Greyserman** and **Ben James** had the best scores through the first round. Greyserman, a Short Hills, N.J., native, and James, who hails from Milford, Conn., both finished 1-under par.

Fellow New Jersey native **Chris Gotterup** finished Thursday's first round with a 5 over par, and **Brandon Wu**, from Scarsdale, shot an 8 over par.

➤ **Jason Day** withdrew from the U.S. Open after playing 10 holes on Thursday due to a back injury. The broadcast showed Day appearing to tweak something while taking a practice swing after making the turn before taking his shot on hole 1. Day had been 7 over par and had seven birdies through the 10 holes he did play.

WINDY SHINNY

Players praise fair course as wild weather on Day 1 turns Open into survival of fittest

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Thursday's first round of the U.S. Open showed why Shinnecock Hills remains a grueling test.

The tone was set early by the intense fog that rolled into the East End of Long Island, delaying play for two hours after a handful of groups had already teed off. Then the whipping winds proved to be another obstacle, as promised, as some of the world's best golfers battled the elements, with Rory McIlroy alluding to the idea of just keeping yourself in it on the first day at Shinnecock Hills.

Sam Stevens, Max McGreevy and amateur Ryder Cowan's 2-under-par rounds gave them the clubhouse lead when the horn sounded to suspend play at 8:25 p.m. as the sun set. Wyndham Clark was 6 under through 16 holes and the leaderboard featured seven U.S. Open champions among the top 10, which included McIlroy, Clark, Matt Fitzpatrick, Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm and Gary Woodland.

"It was a good round. I got off to kind of a weird start with the double on 10," said Stevens, who had been part of the early group that had its round interrupted by the fog delay. "I got off to kind of a weird start but made a birdie on the very next hole. So it kind of felt like I settled in after that."

The winds gusted for most of the day and were evident in the morning at the first hole during Cam Young's approach shot following the delay. Young hit the ball on the green, bouncing toward the edge before the wind caught it and sent it rolling into the bunker off the back.

Sustained winds neared 25 mph, and as the day progressed, the winds shifted direction, adding to the madness. At the fourth hole, the wind blew so hard that the person holding the sign with the player names in the group struggled to keep it above his head as they left the tee box.

No. 4 proved harrowing for McIlroy, too, who finished 1 under, when his drive went into the fescue, his second shot went far right onto a cart path and was nearly stolen by a fan who didn't know better. The world No. 2 still managed to finish with par.

"I think with the conditions today, anything under par or anything around even par is a good score," he said. "It was a day to really just keep yourself in the tournament and not shoot yourself out of it, which is exactly what I did eight years ago here."

The afternoon wave did appear to get more favorable conditions than the morning wave did during the first round, as four of the top eight players on the leaderboard after the first round was halted had been part of the later wave. The average score of the early wave had been 73.87 compared to the late wave, which had an average score of 72.88.

Winds died down for the later groups, which had anticipated being a tough draw at their original time, but Clark noted that the fog helped to push everything back. "It definitely helped those last six, seven holes we played," he said.

Coming into this year's U.S. Open, plenty had been made about the condition of the course, especially after the drama that played out in 2004 and 2018. However, Shinnecock's setup for the first round earned the approval of many of the players.

"It's about as fair as you can probably get it. I was surprised on Monday. The course was very, very soft and slow, but they clearly judged it perfectly,"

WEATHER PERMITTING: Blinding fog delayed the start of the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills by two hours Thursday morning, and when play did get started, players like Hamilton Coleman (inset) faced winds that knocked their hats off and worse. Getty Images; AP

Tommy Fleetwood said after finishing the day with a 70 for even par. "I think today, well, hardly anybody would want to play it any harder than what it was. I think they did an amazing job of making it as fair as you could possibly make a test of golf today with the conditions that they had."

Keegan Bradley echoed the sentiment after shooting a 70.

"The greens were softer than I expected, but thank goodness they were," he said. "There was a few times where my ball was, like, wiggling, like, oscillating a little bit. They did what they had to do to play today. They did a great job. They should be commended for that."

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U.S. Open essentials

at Shinnecock Hills
Golf Club
Southampton, LI

Leaderboard

	Tot.	Thru
Wyndham Clark	-6	16
Sam Stevens	-2	F
Ryder Cowan (a)	-2	F
Max McGreevy	-2	F
Matt Fitzpatrick	-2	16
Dustin Johnson	-2	16
Gary Woodland	-2	15
Jon Rahm	-2	13
Noteables		
Ludvig Aberg	-1	F
Bryson DeChambeau	-1	16
Tommy Fleetwood	E	F
Rickie Fowler	+1	F
Scottie Scheffler	+2	F
Chris Gotterup	+5	F

On the air

Today
6:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Peacock
6:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., NBCSN
1:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., NBC

Saturday
10 a.m.-Noon, USA
Noon-8 p.m., NBC

Sunday
9 a.m.-Noon, USA
Noon-7 p.m., NBC

Fore-cast

Today
73 degrees; Sunny
10% chance of rain
Wind: SW 17 mph

Saturday
75 degrees; Sunny
5% chance of rain
Wind: W 19 mph

Sunday
74 degrees; Sunny
0% chance of rain
Wind: SW 13 MPH

Notable pairings

Friday

7:45 a.m.: Bryson DeChambeau, Viktor Hovland, Matt Fitzpatrick

8:07 a.m.: Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama, Xander Schauffele

8:29 a.m.: Justin Rose, Jordan Spieth, Jon Rahm

1:40 p.m.: Brooks Koepka, Cameron Young, Chris Gotterup

1:51 p.m.: Daniel Berger, Keegan Bradley, Rickie Fowler

2:02 p.m.: Rory McIlroy, Ludvig Aberg, Tommy Fleetwood

8 years later, we see how Rory's grown

Mark Cannizzaro

WHEN Rory McIlroy won the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional by eight shots, it was easy to envision him carrying on to win a bunch more of them.

But that U.S. Open turned out to be a bit of an outlier.

McIlroy was a 22-year-old bull in a china shop back then — just gripping and ripping it with a talent level so extraordinary that he could get away with some poor shots here and there and win anyway.

McIlroy won that Open at 16 under par, a number that probably still has the older USGA heads, traditionally bent on making par a magnet for all competitors, queasy when they look back at that week.

The 2011 McIlroy knew no better than to power his way through golf courses, errors be damned.

But a funny thing happened to McIlroy after that U.S. Open: He missed the cut in four of the next seven of them while posting only one top 10 finish.

And the 2018 U.S. Open, the last one played at Shinnecock before this week, turned out to be one of the most significant turning points in McIlroy's career.

McIlroy shot a 10-over-par 80 in the opening round in 2018 at Shinnecock, and even after rallying with a 70 in the second round, he missed the cut by two.

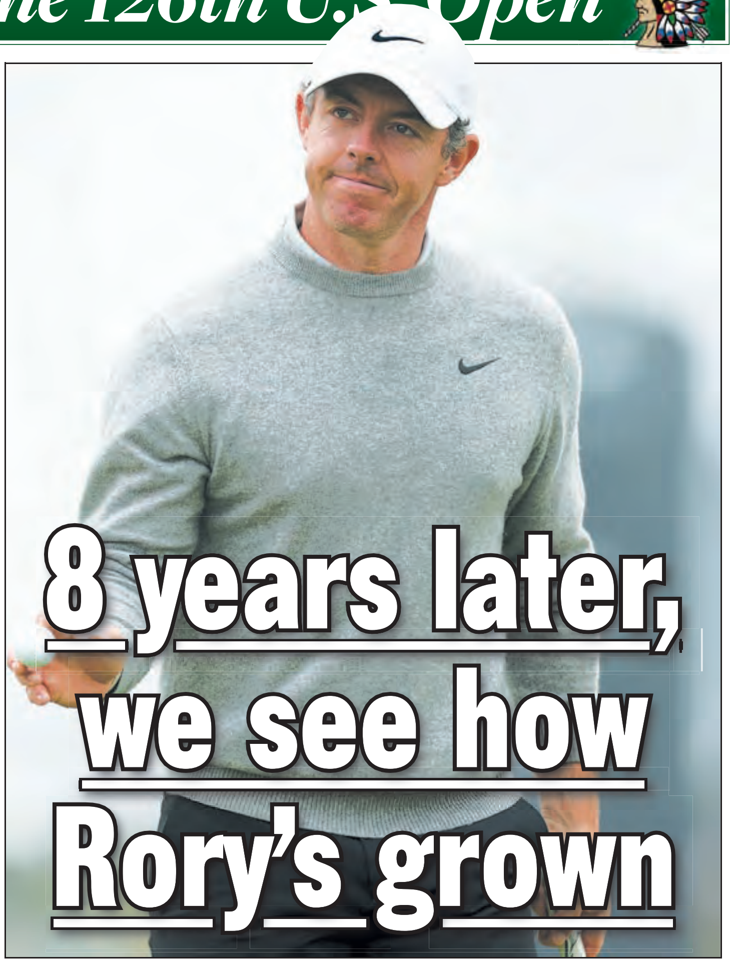
So, he went into Thursday's opening round of the 126th U.S. Open with one singular thought in his mind: Don't do what he did in 2018.

He didn't.

McIlroy posted a 1-under-par 69 to stand just one shot out of the lead when the morning wave of tee times was complete.

The 37-year-old from Northern Ireland, back-to-back winner of the Masters and ranked No. 2 in the world, bogeyed his final two holes (Nos. 8 and 9). But he still walked away satisfied with his day's work — on a day when world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler struggled at 2 over par, as did world No. 3 Cam Young, and Chris Gotterup shot 5 over.

"It was a day to really just keep yourself in the tournament and not shoot yourself out of it, which is exactly what I did eight years ago here," McIlroy said afterward. "So [I] sort of went out with the mindset that pars were going to be good, and if you could pick up a couple of birdies here and there, that's always a bonus."



COOL CUSTOMER: Eight years after melting down on Day 1 at Shinnecock Hills, Rory McIlroy took everything in stride Thursday in the opening round of the U.S. Open on his way to a 1-under-par round, even in adverse conditions. Getty Images

He said he focused on "just minimizing the mistakes," adding, "I did that for the most part. With the conditions today, anything under par or anything around even par is a good score."

McIlroy pointed to 2018 at Shinnecock as the catalyst to changing the way he approaches U.S. Opens now. And the results show his improvement.

After winning in 2011, he missed the cut in the tournament four times from 2012 to 2018.

Since 2019, his worst finish in a U.S. Open has been his tie for 19th last year. Other than that, he has no finish lower than a tie for ninth, and he finished runner-up twice.

"The big thing was I needed to change my mindset," McIlroy said. "I played those two days in 2018 and then I got to the Travelers [Championship] the next week, [and] I remember feeling so much in my comfort zone going to TPC River Highlands and thinking to myself, 'I've got this backwards. I should be in my comfort zone at Shinnecock and not here.'

"I remember flying back from Dubai at the end of 2018, and I would keep a journal or a diary. I wrote in it that from 2019 going forward, I'm going to build my game to compete at the major championships and excel at the toughest tests that we have."

He worked on flighting the ball better, hitting his numbers, his wedge play, short game and putting.

"[That] is all the stuff that I feel like I've improved over the last few years," he said.

The best players evolve, rather than standing pat after some early success.

That's why McIlroy, who became the sixth player in the history of the sport to complete the career Grand Slam when he won his first Masters in 2025, stands as one of the best players of our generation.

"It's amazing how rounded a player he is now," Graeme McDowell, the fellow Northern Irishman who took McIlroy under his wing early on, said Thursday. "He's class ... a class act. Fifteen years ago, I would have said potentially these aren't his type of conditions (windy), but he's an experienced, intelligent, well-rounded individual now who knows how to get it done anywhere, anytime."

Anytime may be *this* time for McIlroy if he keeps playing the way he did Thursday.

And he'll have that nightmarish 2018 experience at Shinnecock to thank for it.

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Reasons for optimism for '26 Jets ...

'IF' YOU LOOK HARD ENOUGH

Brian Costello

AARON Glenn surprised the Jets players at their 8 a.m. meeting Thursday by canceling their final practice of the spring and sending them on their way for six weeks off before training camp begins.

This was a clear sign that Glenn feels good about where his team is entering his second season in charge. Glenn and general manager Darren Mougey made massive changes to the roster, and Glenn revamped his coaching staff.

Will it work?

We'll find out in the fall. For now, there is optimism around the Jets ... just like there is with 31 other teams.

"I think we've made a ton of progress, and I will go back from right after the season and me evaluating myself," Glenn said Thursday. "The things that I want to get better at, the things that I want to do, the direction I want this team and organization to go in. And then right after that, we got into free agency and obviously we talked about this. I love the players that we brought in. Everything was intentional as far as what type of players that we want to bring in."

The Jets sought to add veteran leadership by signing Demario Davis and David Onyemata, and trading for Minkah Fitzpatrick and Geno Smith. Glenn hopes the blend of older players, something they lacked last year, with the young core that they have built can result in turning around the franchise.

"I like exactly where we're at," Glenn said. "But, between myself and the players, this is just not me, myself and the players, we want to get to the point that we love exactly where we're at and we know that takes time. And we'll see that happen as we get into training camp."

For some, 2026 looks like a bridge to 2027 for the Jets. That is when they have three first-round picks and are expected to take a swing at a franchise quarterback. But the current players and coaches, with Glenn at the top of the list, have plenty riding on the results in 2026. If they don't win this year, some of them won't be around next year to work with Arch Manning, Dante Moore or whoever that would-be franchise quarterback is.

The most optimistic fans are trying to talk themselves into this being the year the team finally turns things around. But so many things are going to have to go right for this team for it to be a winner.

That is why I feel like the key word about the 2026 team is "if."

As in:

- If Smith can recapture the form he showed in Seattle in 2022, the Jets will have their best quarterback play in more than a decade.
- If Glenn can press the right buttons calling the defense, that unit can bounce back after a dismal 2025 season. Can they actually get an interception this season?
- If wide receiver Adonai Mitchell plays up to his potential, the Jets could finally have a No. 2 receiver to complement Garrett Wilson. Mitchell, a 2024 second-round pick, has elite traits, but that has not translated into much success. Can he do it with Smith as his quarterback?
- If new offensive coordinator Frank Reich can create a functional, professional offense, the Jets would look better than they have over the past 10 years, when touchdowns have been hard to come by. Since 2016, the Jets have scored 308 touchdowns, the fewest in the NFL. The next fewest is 342 by the Giants.
- If linebacker Demario Davis has something left at 37, the Jets could wind up with not just a leader but a good player on their defense. The team has made it clear that Davis was signed to provide leadership they lacked last season, but he has still played at a high level for the Saints in recent years. The Jets have to hope his play does not fall off a cliff this year.
- If the top draft picks can hit the ground running, the Jets could have four immediate-impact players in David Bailey, Kenyon Sadiq, Omar Cooper Jr. and D'Angelo Ponds.
- If the secondary is improved, the Jets should be able to create turnovers. Minkah Fitzpatrick has been a ball hawk in his career, and Nahshon Wright had five interceptions last season.

That is a lot of "ifs," and some of them are rather large ones.

Chances are that all of those things won't go the Jets' way. Some of those "ifs" will become whiffs.

But it's June, and there *are* reasons for hope *if* you look for them.

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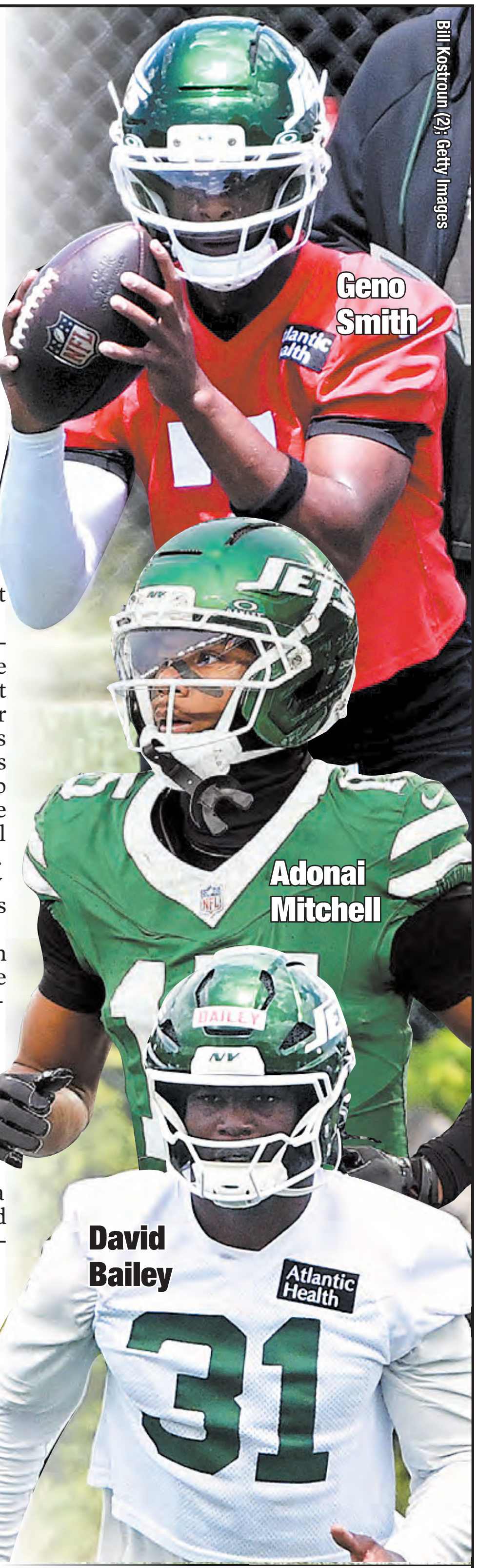

Bill Kostroun (2); Getty Images

Determining backup QB will be a training camp task

By BRIAN COSTELLO

JETS NOTES

One storyline that figures to be prominent during Jets training camp is who will be the backup quarterback.

Bailey Zappe, Brady Cook and rookie Cade Klubnik practiced this spring behind starter Geno Smith, but it still feels like the team may need to add a veteran who shakes loose from another team in camp either via trade or by signing someone who gets cut.

Coach Aaron Glenn is not ready to go there, obviously, but he was asked about his backup spot Thursday as the spring program ended.

"Well, I would say this: We're always going to create competition when it comes to that," Glenn said. "And the thing is, we have Bailey, who's been around this league for a long time, he's won some games. We have Cook that was with us last year who's a second-year player and he's still developing. And then we have Cade, who was doing a really good job until he was out with a back. ... Those guys are going to continue to compete. I would never sit here at this time of the year and say, OK, this guy's going to be our backup quarterback."

Klubnik missed the last two weeks of spring with back spasms. But the fourth-round pick out of Clemson did some good things before then. He will have a lot riding on the preseason games. If he plays well, he might be able to win the backup job. If not, GM Darren Mougey may be working the phones looking for a trade.

➤ It was hard to fully evaluate rookie edge rusher **David Bailey** this spring because there are no padded practices, but the No. 2 overall pick did some things to impress his new coach.

"I think David has grown quite a bit," Glenn said. "Obviously, the thing that I think we all know that stands out is his first-step quickness and his ability to rush the passer. Obviously, we don't have pads on so the physical part of it we just couldn't see. But we do know this: The way he strikes the bag, his length, how strong he is, again he's 250-some pounds. I have no worries about anything else about his weaknesses because I know he's going to work his ass off to be able to get better at those things. ... He's going to be a damn good player for us."

➤ Glenn canceled the last minicamp practice Thursday, sending the team home until training camp begins July 28.

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Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

CHAMPING AT THE BIT

Eager to make mayhem-free celebrations the norm again

CLIMB ON BANDWAGON: A Knicks fan hangs onto a traffic light pole in Herald Square after the team won Game 5 to claim the NBA championship. The assaults, vandalism and lawlessness following Game 4 and Game 5 are a stain on an otherwise joyous triumph by the Knicks. Getty Images

THESE ARE confusing days. Two plus two has become a matter of opinion, and nothing good can be enjoyed without moral compromise.

When the Knicks won their previous two championships, I was a standard-bred college student. I had long hair, a fake ID with which to illegally buy and drink beer. I smoked a lot of pot and cast my first presidential vote for George McGovern.

Yep, right out of the Woodstock playbook. In 1987, when Harvard law professor Douglas Ginsburg removed himself from being a U.S. Supreme Court candidate after admitting to having smoked pot in the early 1970s, I wondered if the nation realized that he'd have been considered an oddball had he not.

So when the Knicks won in 1970 and '73, I felt only one thing: joy. I loved those teams for how they played as much as for the "New York" on their uniforms.

But I felt no urge to head to the streets to express my joy by committing an act of incivility. There was no riot to join, either way, and rioters don't riot alone. They need both an excuse — any excuse — and confederates.

As Jalen Brunson, the single-minded, inexhaustible and stoic leader of these Knicks nearly broke down when asked about the devotion of his father to his success as a pro and as a man, I seconded his emotion. Whatever success I've enjoyed can be traced to my parents' refusal to surrender their son to his immature, selfish and defiant choices.

And I wondered how many watching Brunson in these moments thought of the sustained plight of black kids, more than 50 percent raised with no fathers.

Yet, as I shared Brunson's emotion, the 21st-century cynic in me wondered what was going on — and about to go on — in the streets of Gotham and beyond.

This had been a playoff series fueled by mass media hysteria and declarations of God-is-on-our-side holy war — not that residents of a city already designated for political self-destruction would need prompting to break the law.

New York City dwellers were on their own to celebrate as they deemed fit. Thus my worst, conditioned fears were realized. The public "celebration" included felonious assaults, vandalism and all sorts of lawlessness.

I was left with two unforgettable takeaways:

1) Brunson's emotional response as hard evidence to be raised to know good from bad and right from wrong.

2) A young, smiling couple posing for a photo — perhaps a selfie — in front of an NYPD patrol car, its windshield smashed by vandals explained as "celebrating Knick fans." That couple looked delighted.

Celebrants also set fire to five school buses, destroying them; a teenage boy was shot in the leg around midnight; and there were countless other episodes of destruction and mayhem.

After Game 4, played in the Garden, an initial count of arrests made outside MSG for "celebrating" the Knicks home win was 53. Four more were busted for destroying a taxicab. The "few bad apples" rationalization did not apply.

How many legit careers — school bus and cab drivers, for starters — were afflicted by "celebrating Knick fans"? Who pays for all the destruction, including police cars?

And NYC wasn't alone. In San Antonio, where the Knicks won it all, a father and son in town to see Game 5 were jumped, then beaten and stomped outside their hotel because they'd been identified as Knicks fans.

Witnesses who the son thought would come to their aid joined in the assault. The 62-year-old victim was hospitalized with a reported brain bleed, extensive bruising and a seriously separated and torn shoulder.

But here, there and everywhere these are the "butcher's bill" prices we all must pay.

The parking lots of MLB and NFL games are assault centers for those with the temerity to wear the jersey of the visiting team. NFL stadiums now include arraignment centers for the drunk and disorderly as gross misconduct at sports events has become a given.

And those who would push back into this storm are mocked as old geezers — until the smug wise guys and their kids become victims.

The day after the Knicks win and the repugnant behavior that followed — and was expected to follow — The Post ran Gavin Newsham's lengthy piece about how the pro golf tour, once a snug harbor for the polite and respectful spectator, has been lost to self-entitled disruptive young adult jerks, fueled by booze and gambling, both in deference to padding tournament profits.

And so we again ask: Can sports fans ever return to a place if they've never been there?

Football, soccer have lots in common

FIFA's international World Cup feed telecast directors are just like our NFL TV directors: Find, then focus on every fool in the stands dressed (or undressed) for attention, many of them apparently loaded, to the exclusion of the civilized.

In FIFA's case, after fueling the fools, it conducts anti-hooliganism campaigns to try to eliminate post-match riots. Kinda like **Roger Goodell**'s tired and feckless end zone and back-of-helmets messaging.

➤ SNY's **Gary Cohen** during successive Mets telecasts this week did not identify many or any pitches as "sweepers," where he usually smugly IDs scores of them, real and imagined.

Perhaps **Ron Darling** took him aside to explain that off-speed pitches thrown by righties to lefties, and vice versa, *can't* be down-and-away sweepers. They're more likely changeups or good old-fashioned curveballs. But Cohen rarely allows his boothmates the last word.

➤ For the sake of The Game and the good and welfare of its speed-is-everything pitchers, perhaps it's time for all pitchers to throw from the set position.

This week more pitchers were listed as pre-Tommy John surgery candidates, their elbows' ulnar collateral ligaments inflamed. The Angels' **Jack Kochanowicz** has been lost to TJ surgery, which stands to natural reason, as he's a righty who slingshots 98 mph pitches from behind his left ear.

Decision-making seems to be 'challenge' for Jazz

SATURDAY on YES, **Michael Kay** came close to telling a conspicuous truth — **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** is a me-only guy — when he noted that Chisholm remains in the habit of challenging strike calls with no sense of good judgment or game circumstances.

In Saturday's case, he absurdly challenged a pitch shown to be fully in the strike zone. After wondering what goes on in Chisholm's head, Kay noted that he's now 5-for-14 in such challenges.

➤ YES's **Paul O'Neill** continues to creep closer to telling, or at least hinting at, truths that don't favor the Yankees.

This week, he asked why **Jasson Domínguez** showed up to play an hour before the game because he'd had a tooth pulled. Why, O'Neill wondered, didn't Domínguez have that done the day before, an off-day?

➤ Any of you old guys recall the colorful style of NBA ref **Mendy Rudolph**? Reader Mike Soper and his pal Al suggest that today, if Rudolph were allowed to apply NBA rules, he'd suffer leg and voice distress hopping down the court on one leg and rotating his arms to signal traveling while barking, "No, no, no, no, no!"

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MIX AND MATCH

Early predictions where starters on block fit best

THE MATCHMAKING of teams and players isn't an easy business, and it's especially dicey with six weeks to go before the trade deadline. Yet, I'll give it a shot here. Here are six of the biggest starters likely to hit the market, and the best guesses for landing spots (not recommended for betting purposes):

1. Tarik Skubal: The two-time defending American League Cy Young winner showed big-time stuff but looked "rusty" in his quick, six-week return following elbow nanoscope (aka "Skubal scope"), according to an AL scout. Regardless, Skubal will be most contenders' No. 1 target. The Cubs and Blue Jays are seen as among the more desperate big-market teams, while the Padres, Phillies and Rangers have the most aggressive decision-makers (A.J. Preller, Dave Dombrowski and Chris Young, respectively). Cubs baseball president Jed Hoyer worked for years in Chicago with Tigers baseball president Scott Harris. The Rays watched Skubal's first bullpen session at The Trop and have new ownership. The Brewers have an opportunity to form arguably the best playoff rotation with Cy Young favorite Jacob Misiorowski and resurrected star Kyle Harrison, but the small-market team understandably doesn't like to surrender prospects; they once did a deal like this when they acquired CC Sabathia, which may be the blueprint for others here. **Early fit: Blue Jays.**

2. Freddy Peralta: Peralta makes almost any playoff rotation and stands as that rare bargain with his $8M salary. The Cubs, with Craig Counsell, Peralta's longtime manager in Milwaukee, make sense here too. **Early fit: Cubs.**

3. Sandy Alcantara: We've wasted a lot of newsprint speculating on Alcantara trades, but rival GMs actually believe a trade may happen this time. The Marlins apparently told teams over the winter something along the lines of "maybe at the deadline." The Marlins and Padres seem to match up (Luis Arraez, Tanner Scott). Ex-Padre Seth Lugo, now with the Royals, is another guy the Padres might like. **Early fit: Padres.**

4. Sonny Gray: A trade of Gray is complicated by his $10M buyout for next year and full veto power. The Braves like him and should finally have to acquire a starter with Spencer Strider (arm) joining Spencer Schwellenbach on the injured list. The guess here is that Gray, a Nashville, Tenn., product, wouldn't mind Atlanta. **Early fit: Braves.**

5. Robbie Ray: Here's a Giant who should have a market (as opposed to that overpriced trio of Rafael Devers, Willy Adames and maybe even Matt Chapman). He still can dominate. He posted his best seasons for Toronto and Arizona; both could use him. **Early fit: Diamondbacks.**

6. Clay Holmes: The Mets' best pitcher this year is progressing and expects to start throwing around July 1, making a return date by the Aug. 3 trade deadline possible. The Pirates, whose improved hitting is being undermined by disappointing pitching, might like a do-over. **Early fit: Pirates.**

Tarik Skubal
Sandy Alcantara
Freddy Peralta

Robert Sabo; Getty Images (2)

Skubal unlikely for Bombers

THE YANKEES will make the phone call on two-time defending AL Cy Young **Tarik Skubal**. But that's a big long shot for them.

Even with ace **Max Fried** (arm) six weeks away, the Yankees' priorities are catcher and bullpen.

The Tigers are looking at Yankees prospects (and others, too) and are believed to like them, especially SS **George Lombard Jr.**, whose dad is the Tigers bench coach, and reliever **Carlos Lagrange**. But one Yankees person assessed their chances of trading Lombard for a rental (even a great one) as: "No chance."

Yankees catchers are hitting .184 with a pathetic .548 OPS.

Top catchers who could hit the block include Colorado's **Hunter Goodman** (long shot since he has three years before free agency; they'd "have to be overwhelmed") and Minnesota's **Ryan Jeffers**.

Jeffers will be a free agent, so assuming he recovers from a broken hamate (he picked up a bat this week), his chances of being traded are better. ...

The Mets' chances of becoming a seller are rising thanks to one surprise reason: The rotation, once seen as deep, is seriously depleted.

At present, it's **Freddy Peralta** and **Nolan McLean** and pray for a deluge.

With up-and-comer **Christian Scott** (hip) out, and **Tobias Myers** and the perennially puzzling **Kodai Senga** showing they aren't viable options, the back of the rotation looks iffy.

One more issue: A Mets organization briefly ranked as having the top prospect stash (right before **Jett Williams** and **Brandon Sproat** were traded for Peralta) has few minor league options. ...

Shoutout to **Alex Rodriguez**: He helped bring another championship to New York as a result of being part of the Timberwolves ownership group that traded Karl-Anthony Towns to the Knicks. KAT was a record plus-262 in the Knicks title run. Thanks, A-Rod.

Phillies' options to add righty bat

THE PHILLIES need a righty bat. "They need two," one rival GM says.

Outfield is the positional need. But **Bryce Harper** is said to be willing to move from first base, giving them more options. Two 1Bs, **Willson Contreras** and **Christian Walker**, look like potential fits — that's if Boston or Houston, respectively, will part with them.

Matt Chapman might make sense, too, as **Alec Bohm** could move from third to first, if the Phillies are willing to take on $100M-plus owed and Chapman waives his no-trade clause.

Center fielder **Byron Buxton** might be the best fit if he waives his no-trade clause. Buxton loves Minnesota and said he wouldn't waive it last year, but if the Twins don't start winning more, he might consider it. ...

Sure, of course, the Giants would trade **Rafael Devers**, **Willy Adames** and Chapman. But how much money would they need to pay to do so?

Devers (about $220M-plus to go) would take a major paydown.

San Francisco will at least trade free agents **Robbie Ray** and **Luis Arraez** without any trouble. ...

The Angels could have a decent sale, too, with **Reid Detmers, Jose Soriano** and the resurrected legend **Mike Trout**. But owner **Arte Moreno** doesn't like to trade. ...

The Tigers are seeking controllable pitching and athletic position players close to big league-ready for two-time Cy Young winner **Tarik Skubal**.

The Dodgers have the best prospects, and while every contender is expected to check in, they believe **Blake Snell** and **Tyler Glasnow** will be back to join **Shohei Ohtani** and **Yoshinobu Yamamoto** in the rotation, giving them less need for Skubal than almost anyone and making them less inclined than most to trade their kids.

One outside reason for the Dodgers to possibly consider Skubal: to keep him away from the Brewers, Braves, Cubs or Phillies. But the Dodgers don't usually worry too much about their competitors, and probably won't.

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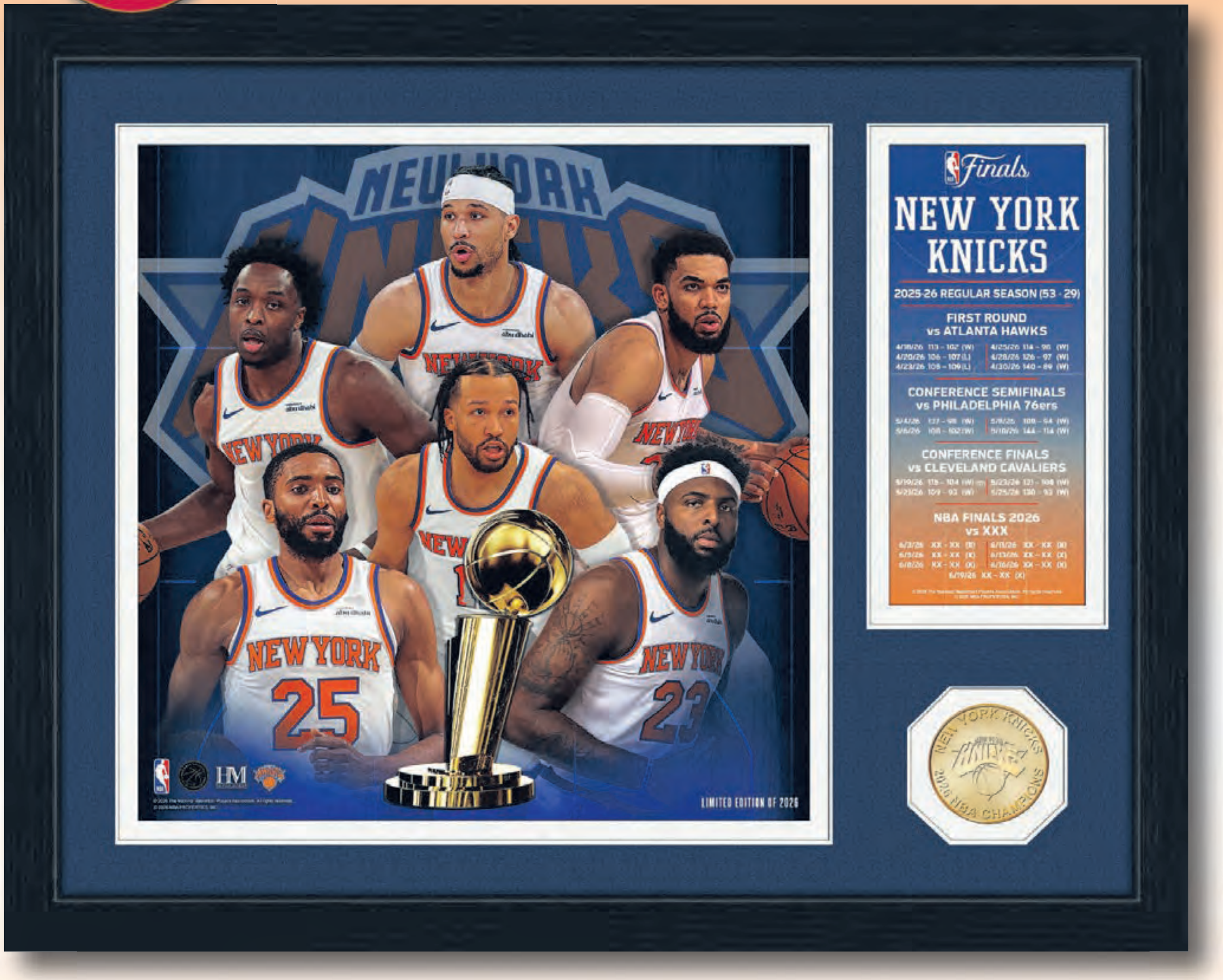
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OUTPACING THE PHILLIES

Soto gets Amazin' lineup off to races with two early HRs

By MIKE PUMA

PHILADELPHIA — Bo Bichette's streak of multihit games ended Thursday night, but the guy batting behind him, as well as the rest of the Mets lineup, kept marching.

METS	**6**	**Boxscore Page 70**
PHILLIES	**4**	

Juan Soto blasted two homers in the first three innings before the Mets broke out in the seventh for a 6-4 victory over the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park.

"I have had some ups and downs so far, but it feels great," Soto said of a season in which he's posted a .980 OPS with 17 home runs. "I definitely would love to be in a different spot as a team, but I want to help as much as I can to bring them back up."

It was a second straight win for the Mets spurred by the lineup (they scored nine runs in beating the Reds on Wednesday), and Francisco Lindor's return looms; the shortstop is scheduled to begin a minor league rehab assignment Friday and could rejoin the Mets within days.

"His defense and his bat, he's elite," Soto said. "He's one of the best defensive players in the game and I think he's going to help a lot."

Bichette, who had recorded six straight multiple-hit games, finished 0-for-5 on a night the Mets totaled 11 hits.

START AND FINISH: Juan Soto hit solo home runs in the first and third innings, while Marcus Semien's (left) two-run triple extended the Mets lead to 6-3 in their win over the Phillies on Thursday night.
Imagn Images; AP

Sean Manaea gave the Mets a chance by limiting the Phillies to three runs, two earned, on six hits and one walk with five strikeouts over 5 ¹⁄₃ innings. The lefty's ERA, which peaked at 6.85 on May 6, fell to 4.64.

Soto's two-out homer in the first against Aaron Nola accounted for the Mets' initial run. Soto crushed a 1-2 cutter into the seats in right field before Nola's fielding error on Jared Young's grounder gave the Mets another base runner. A.J. Ewing followed with an RBI double that widened the lead to 2-0.

But Manaea gave back one run in the bottom of the inning on Alec Bohm's RBI single. Manaea drilled Trea Turner and allowed a single to Kyle Schwarber to begin the inning. Bryce Harper, on base on a fielder's choice, was thrown out attempting to steal third base to conclude the inning.

Soto's second blast of the night gave the Mets a 3-1 lead in the third. It was the 30th multihomer game of Soto's career and second this season.

"This is a guy that is more than capable of carrying a team, but he's not trying to do too much," manager Carlos Mendoza said. "He's going to continue to take his walks, he's going to hit the ball hard, he's a really good player."

Sloppy defense by Francisco Alvarez cost the Mets a run in the third. Alvarez was charged with a passed ball and error on strike 3 to Schwarber when he threw errantly to first base on a pitch he mishandled as Schwarber swung and missed. Bohm's RBI double sliced the Mets lead to 3-2.

Bryson Stott singled and stole second in the fourth before Derek Hill stroked an RBI single that tied it 3-3. Hill took second on Ewing's throwing error on the play, but Manaea retired Justin Crawford for the third out.

Manaea walked Harper in the fifth before getting Bohm to ground into an inning-ending double play.

Pinch hitter Eric Wagaman delivered a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh. Carson Benge singled leading off against Phillies reliever José Alvarado, stole second and reached third on a wild pitch. After pinch hitter Mark Vientos drew a two-out walk, Wagaman's single gave the Mets a 4-3 lead.

Marcus Semien's ensuing triple — his first of the season — brought in two runs to put the Phillies in a 6-3 hole. Semien appeared struck out to end the inning, but as the Phillies attempted to leave the field, plate umpire Brian Walsh ruled his foul tip hit the dirt. Semien capitalized on his extended at-bat.

Huascar Brazobán, A.J. Minter and Luke Weaver combined for 2 ²⁄₃ innings of scoreless relief. Weaver struck out the side in the eighth. Devin Williams allowed one run in the ninth on a Justin Crawford RBI single before retiring Schwarber on a line drive to right for the final out with the tying runs on base.

mpuma@nypost.com

Corey Sipkin

Francisco Lindor

Lindor begins rehab assignment, may

By MIKE PUMA

METS NOTES

PHILADELPHIA — Francisco Lindor's countdown to rejoining the Mets is underway.

The shortstop will begin a minor league rehab assignment Friday for Double-A Binghamton, according to manager Carlos Mendoza, and could return to the Mets lineup by early next week.

Mendoza indicated the plan is for Lindor to play two games in the minors (Triple-A Syracuse could be a stop if weather affects Binghamton) and then decide if he is ready or needs additional time. Lindor would play Friday, rest Saturday and then play Sunday before a determination is reached.

Lindor, who has been on the injured list since April 23 with a left calf strain, has spent the last week playing simulated games.

"This is a guy who knows himself better than anybody, and he's going to let us know whether he needs more at-bats or basically how he's feeling, and we'll go from there," Mendoza said before the Mets beat the Phillies 6-4.

Among the possibilities is that Lindor will receive occasional starts at DH upon his return.

"I am pretty sure that is going to be a discussion, knowing him, a guy that wants to be in the lineup every day," Mendoza said. "He will take that as an off day as opposed to being completely out of the lineup, but I am pretty sure there's also going to be days where we

UP NEXT

at Phillies

SATURDAY: 7:15 p.m., Fox

SUNDAY: 7:20 p.m., NBC

WHSQ (880 AM)

rejoin team early next week

are going to have to be firm and keep his name out of the starting lineup."

Lindor's return will shift Bo Bichette back to third base and Brett Baty into the utility role in which he began the season.

➤ **Tyrone Taylor** will also begin a rehab assignment for Binghamton, but Mendoza said the outfielder's stay will be longer because he hasn't built up volume in his at-bats compared to Lindor, who has been playing simulated games. Taylor is rehabbing a right hip flexor strain that has kept him sidelined since May 26.

➤ This series won't resume until Saturday night because of Friday's World Cup match between Brazil and Haiti scheduled for Lincoln Financial Field — which is across the street from Citizens Bank Park.

"It's weird," Mendoza said of the off day within a series. "But then you understand: You have got the World Cup right next door and you will have 80,000 people there."

Mendoza said he's hoping to attend the match.

"I am trying," he said. "It's not an easy ticket."

BO KNOWS STREAKS: Mets infielder Bo Bichette, celebrating Thursday's win with Mark Vientos, went 0-for-5 last night. He had entered play with multihit performances in his previous six games — the third-longest such streak in Mets history. AP

Bichette pheels wrath of spurned Phillies fanbase

By MIKE PUMA

PHILADELPHIA — Bo Bichette braced for a rude reception Thursday from a fanbase that almost became his this season.

"If you know anything about Philly, nothing will surprise me," Bichette said before the Mets beat the Phillies 6-4 at Citizens Bank Park.

Bichette was booed each time he walked to the plate in his 0-for-5 performance, which snapped his streak of multihit games at six.

Last January the Mets, after learning that free agent Kyle Tucker had chosen the Dodgers, pivoted toward Bichette — who was deep into negotiations with the Phillies.

Bichette took the Mets offer of $126 million over three years — with opt-outs after 2026 and '27 — preventing the Phillies from adding another key bat. Earlier in the offseason, the defending NL East champions had re-signed Kyle Schwarber to a five-year contract worth $150 million.

"We were definitely talking, but there were a few things that were unfinished, so I wouldn't say necessarily that we were at the finish line," Bichette said.

The Phillies' reported offer for Bichette was $200 million over seven years. Dave Dombrowski, the team's president of baseball operations, described losing Bichette as a "gut punch."

Bichette, who helped the Blue Jays reach the World Series last season, isn't looking back.

"[The Phillies] are a great team that I was interested in being part of, but I wouldn't say I think too much of what could have been," Bichette said.

Bichette reiterated factors that attracted him when he selected the Mets.

"Ownership is doing their best to get a team of talent on the field to win and the team has a ton of talent," Bichette said. "Playing in New York, the market here, all that was important to me — we have the opportunity to win, with talent, in a place that fans care about the team."

The Phillies fired manager Rob Thomson following a slow start — replacing him with bench coach Don Mattingly — and have surged into wild-card contention. They began play 40-34, ahead by 1 ½ games for the second wild card.

It has been a different story for the Mets, who haven't recovered from their 12-game losing streak in April, despite improved play in recent weeks. They are 34-41, last in the NL East.

"We have played better for a decent stretch of time," Bichette said, referring to the team's 25-20 record since May 1. "Probably not to our capabilities, but we just have to continue to keep on grinding, putting up wins however we can. Most teams have that little hot stretch that kind of evens out the cold stretch and hopefully we have that soon."

’VAL OVER NOW

Reliever slammed as Bombers fall to Chisox

By DAN MARTIN

WHITE SOX 5
YANKEES 1

Boxscore Page 70

If the Yankees were looking for any more clarity about the weak parts on a roster that’s looked mostly dominant even without Aaron Judge, they got it Thursday in The Bronx.

What had been a tight game against a White Sox team they’d hammered the previous two games turned on its head with one pitch from Camilo Doval, the right-hander who’s been unreliable since he was acquired from the Giants nearly a year ago.

Faced with the unenviable task of entering with the bases loaded and one out in the top of the eighth of a tie game after Tim Hill drilled back-to-back hitters, Doval faced pinch hitter Andrew Benintendi and gave up a grand slam on his first pitch in a 5-1 loss.

“It’s not the result you want there,” Doval said through an interpreter. “With the bases loaded, you try to throw strikes and get ahead. It was a good sinker with movement, but he was able to hit it very well.”

Doval was far from the only reason the Yankees had their four-game winning streak snapped, losing for just the second time in 10 games.

A lineup that had piled up 30 runs in its previous three games couldn’t get anything going against lefty opener Bryan Hudson or right-hander Sean Burke, who had been knocked around by the Dodgers and Phillies in his previous two appearances but limited the Yankees to one run in 7 1/3 innings to finish the game.

The Yankees brought a season-high 3½-game lead in the AL East over the idle Rays, who were just swept by the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Despite a solid start by lefty Ryan Weathers, who gave up just one run in 6 1/3 innings, the Yankees were unable to finish off a sweep of Chicago.

Weathers had allowed at least five runs in each of his previous three starts — and four of his last five — but struck out the side in order in the top of the first, an indication of how powerful his stuff was on Thursday.

He began the second by giving up a leadoff homer to Colson Montgomery after allowing seven homers in those three previous starts. It was Montgomery’s third homer in two games.

That would be all Weathers would give up to the White Sox on this night.

He responded to the Montgomery homer by facing one batter over the minimum until he walked Montgomery with one out in the seventh to end Weathers’ outing.

Ryan McMahon got to Burke to open the bottom of the third with an opposite-field homer to left-center that tied the game at 1-1.

José Caballero gave the Yankees a brief scoring chance against Burke in the fifth, as he reached second on a single and an error by center fielder Tristan Peters.

But Caballero was picked off second and McMahon whiffed.

With one out in the seventh, Anthony Volpe — in the game after Jazz Chisholm Jr. was forced out when he fouled a ball off near his groin — hit a liner off the left field wall.

As Junior Pérez chased down the ricochet, Volpe tried to get to third and was thrown out — an aggressive play of which Boone said he approved.

In the eighth, Fernando Cruz gave up a leadoff double to pinch-hitter Luisangel Acuña before Hill entered and hit pinch-hitter Sam Antonacci, as well as Tristan Peters — Peters on an 0-2 pitch — to load the bases with no one out.

Yankees notes / Page 69

Hill struck out Chase Meidroth before Doval entered to face Benintendi, who tagged Doval with a shot out to right on a 99 mph sinker that wasn’t low enough.

Doval has been ineffective against lefties this season and bad in high-leverage spots since getting to the Yankees, but Boone said he remained confident Doval could pitch under the bright lights of New York.

“I don’t think it’s a situation where he’s overwhelmed by a bigger situation,” Boone said. “It comes down to execution.”

There have been too many times, though, when the execution hasn’t been there.

“I’m not getting the results I expect from myself at this moment,” Doval said. “But I know they’re coming.”

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TAGGED & TAGGED OUT: Yankees pitcher Camilo Doval reacts as he walks back to the dugout after serving up a grand slam in the eighth inning Thursday night at Yankee Stadium, one inning after Anthony Volpe was tagged out trying to stretch a double into a triple. Robert Sabo (2)

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INJURY REPORT

- **Max Fried** continues to make progress in his return from a left elbow bone bruise and is scheduled to throw another bullpen this weekend, but he is expected to be out another six weeks.

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7 IP, 6 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

45%	27%	19%
4-Seamer	Cutter	Sinker

RHP Rhett Lowder

2026 stats:
3-3, 4.60 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
First appearance

Last start:
Sat., vs. ARI;
5.2 IP, 5 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

30%	24%	24%
Sinker	Slider	4-Seamer

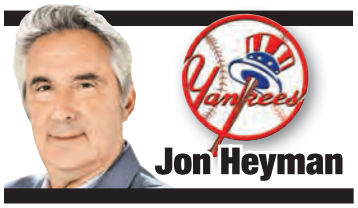
UP NEXT

SATURDAY: vs. Reds,
1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Will Warren
vs. LHP Andrew Abbott

SUNDAY: vs. Reds,
1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Gerrit Cole
vs. RHP Chase Burns

Who wants Chapman back in Bronx? Nobody

FUHGEDDABOUDIT! Aroldis Chapman says he wants an apology from the Yankees before he would agree to rejoin the franchise, which itself has "no chance" of getting on board with a reunion in the words of one high-ranking Yankees person. Imagn Images



Jon Heyman

CLOSER extraordinaire Aroldis Chapman always struck me as a pretty smart cat, but he seems to have things backward this time. He recently suggested the Yankees would need to apologize to him if they're going to acquire him via trade when he probably should still be thanking them for helping him revive his once-endangered career.

Before we compare and contrast the conflicting stories about a missed workout leading to Chapman's alleged, apparent upset, let's put his mind mostly at ease. My guess is he said what he said to kill any chance the Yankees might bring him back via trade, and I do hear they have no interest in a reunion. (The team responses, which are below, couldn't be much stronger.)

Chapman is a borderline Hall of Fame case who's four strikeouts from the all-time record for relievers that belongs to Hoyt Wilhelm and currently carries an 0.83 ERA. So he makes sense on the most basic level.

The Yankees seek at this trade deadline to upgrade a bullpen that is solid but something less than overwhelming (they're fifth in ERA at 3.35 but 24th in strikeouts with 237). As of today, he looks likely to be easily the best reliever to hit the market.

Chapman's Red Sox are pretty abysmal, and abysmal teams generally don't need aged closers, even great ones. And the Yankees' other outside pen options look seriously limited.

Josh Hader is back but recently was nursing an ailing arm, and his middling, ailing Astros could still win a terrible American League West. Antonio Senzatela, a converted Rockies starter who has lowered his ERA from 6.65 last year to 2.29 as a reliever, might be the best one beyond Chapman who actually will be traded.

They could try to bring back the Mets' Luke Weaver, an ex-Yankee they like and who's been nothing short of brilliant on the other side of town. And of course, we have visual evidence he still has his Yankees bag.

But other than those couple of pen men, the reliever list borders on lame.

Anyway, if Chapman was ever really on Yankees radar before, he appears far less so after telling Enrique Rojas of ESPN Deportes that the Yankees owed him an apology. Maybe something changes, but for today, they don't seem desperate enough to try to resurrect things with him.

"Not happening," one high-ranking Yankees person says, flat out.

I checked back to be sure.

"No chance," I was told.

"He's a headache," I was also told.

That seems about as strong as it can be. Sometimes, things change. But for now, they aren't considering it, and frankly, I can't blame them.

We will get into how this seemingly minor dustup that may trouble him happened, but let's put that aside for now. Here's why Chapman should be thanking the Yankees.

They acquired him in a trade at a time he had a domestic violence issue hanging over his head, and they defended him to the hilt in that hearing (although he ultimately began his Yankees career banned for 30 games). Then, two years later, they gave him an $86M contract. Both of those occurrences should outweigh the misunderstanding on his way out.

They also afforded him annual October chances, and while he doesn't need to apologize for his terrible postseason performances, he didn't exactly live up to his rep or his regular-season pedigree in his biggest moments here. He allowed home runs to the otherwise anonymous Mike Brosseau and the despised Jose Altuve that effectively ended consecutive Yankees seasons.

He also annoyed the Yankees with a brutal final year in pinstripes, when he seemed distracted (in their telling) and missed time after getting an in-season tattoo that became infected. Ultimately, he lost the strike zone, lost his closer job to Clay Holmes, lost his way (also in their telling) and lost his key fans in the front office.

Their story is that Chapman told them he'd come to the pre-playoff mandatory workout only if they guaranteed a roster spot for him, and when they said they couldn't do that before they met, he didn't show. His story is that they booked his flight from his Miami home for the day after the workout, and that's why he missed the fateful workout.

Anyway, the Yankees publicly blamed him for missing it, and apparently he never forgave them. But maybe, just maybe, he wants so desperately not to return that he demanded an apology he knows he will never get.

Maybe he got nervous when the Red Sox recently faced the Yankees and, according to his friend, several Yankees people — players and staff both — approached him to tell him they needed him back. None of those pinstriped personnel were Cashman, who's making the calls, but maybe it was enough for him to put the kibosh on any positive thoughts the Yankees might have about him.

Maybe he'd prefer to remain with the Red Sox, where he's been about the best reliever in MLB this side of Mason Miller and prefers to pile up numbers to make it to Cooperstown. Maybe he simply doesn't want to return to the site of his greatest failures. Maybe that's one area of agreement between Chapman and the Yankees. Neither one wants to resurrect this relationship.

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Seattle crowd will be raucous for U.S. match

SEATTLE
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EGYPT, LET ME HEAR YOU!
FIFA WORLD CUP 2026
FIFA WORLD CUP 2026
SEATTLE

By BRIAN LEWIS

SEATTLE — Lumen Field is one of the loudest stadiums on the planet. Seattle is arguably the most soccer-mad city in the country.

And it's about to host the biggest game in its history, the U.S. national team taking on Australia Friday with first place in World Cup Group D at stake.

"Yeah, I fully expect this crowd to be extremely loud, and they're going to energize our group. This is one of the loudest stadiums in the world, when you think about Seahawks or Sounders games," Cristian Roldan said. "I fully expect the city of Seattle to come out and show out. The guys are going to feel that type of energy.

"The soccer culture goes back a long time here in the city of Seattle. ... There's a long, long history here, as well as Vancouver and Portland. So, digging into that, the soccer landscape is amazing. ... It means a lot to play soccer here. And I'm excited for the world to see what the city is all about."

Roldan starred at the University of Washington, where the U.S. practiced Thursday, and plays for the Seattle Sounders, who often have MLS' biggest and loudest crowds.

But the city's love affair with soccer runs far deeper and older than even MLS, back to the Sounders' NASL days. And Lumen's status as a sonic weapon predates its use in fútbol to football tenant Seahawks.

"I heard so, I heard so. I've never played here. I hope it's gonna be loud," Sergiño Dest said. "That also scares the opponent a little bit and it helps us, gives us an extra boost. So it's gonna be a great game."

Lumen Field is one of the world's loudest venues — it used to be the loudest, actually. That's partly because of passionate energy — which there will be plenty of Friday cheering for the U.S. — and partly due to planned engineering.

With a unique, acoustic-trapping architectural roof, Lumen Field actually had the Guinness Record before Kansas City broke it, reaching 137.6 decibels — roughly comparable to a jet engine — and famously triggered localized seismic activity known as "Beast Quake" during big Seahawks plays.

The extensive use of concrete and aluminum seats makes sound reverberate and amplify throughout the bowl. The compact footprint puts fans close to the field. And 70 percent of the seats are covered by big, curved metal canopies, acting as parabolic sound mirrors that bounce noise straight onto the field.

It's an acoustic attack the U.S. and its fans will weaponize against the Aussies.

"Roldan has always told me this fanbase has been amazing," Weston McKennie said. "It's a huge fan base here. I'm excited to see what it's like. I've never been here with the national team before. Hopefully it's similar to SoFi or better.

"Even before the last game, hearing the fans and the national anthem and people singing along, it gives you goose bumps. Then you're like, 'oh s--t, it's time to go.' You're fired up because you know you have people behind you. ... It's an amazing feeling. Boost of confidence. Whenever you're tired and you hear them going, cheering higher whenever someone makes a tackle, it's an adrenaline rush."

The cheering will be high. The U.S. hopes the adrenaline will as well.

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DEAFENING: Lumen Field in Seattle, where the U.S. will play Australia on Friday, is renowned as perhaps the loudest stadium in terms of crowd noise in the nation. Seattle has long had a love affair with soccer and a big raucous crowd is expected. The stadium hosted a Group G match between Belgium and Egypt last week. Getty Images

Shutout winner Mexico is 1st to reach knockout stage

WORLD CUP ROUNDUP

Associated Press

Mexico took advantage of a defensive blunder by South Korea to win 1-0 and become the first team to advance to the knockout stage of the World Cup on Thursday in Guadalajara, Mexico.

It marks a major triumph for a team that failed to get out of the group stage in 2022 and now has won twice on home soil in front of jubilant crowds.

Luis Romo scored in the 50th minute after South Korea goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu collided with defender Lee Gi-hyuk and dropped the ball inside the area. Romo easily found the open net after picking up the loose ball.

The South Koreans nearly equalized in the 87th minute when Mexico goalkeeper Raúl Rangel stopped a header from close range by Cho Gue-sung, then made an even better save on the rebound.

Mexico has six points from two Group A matches, three more than South Korea and five more than the Czech Republic and South Africa, who drew 1-1 earlier Thursday in Atlanta.

Canada 6, Qatar 0

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada's historic first World Cup victory was overshadowed by a gruesome injury to midfielder Ismaël Koné.

Koné injured his left leg when Qatar midfielder Assim Madibo tackled him from behind in the second half, sending the 24-year-old to the ground. Koné grimaced and players rushed to his aid, calling for help from the sidelines.

Madibo was sent off for the tackle on Koné, who was was treated on the field before he was stretchered off.

Koné was whisked to a local hospital were he was preparing for surgery while surrounded by family, Canada coach Jesse Marsch said.

Madibo's red card left Qatar to play with nine men, after teammate Homam Ahmed was sent off in the first half.

Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1

Substitute Johan Manzambi scored his first World Cup goal on an outstanding volley in the 74th minute, and Switzerland erupted late for a 4-1 victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina in Inglewood, Calif., to take control of Group B.

South Africa 1, Czech Republic 1

In Atlanta, Teboho Mokoena started the game with tears in his eyes and finished it with a smile on his face after converting a second-half penalty in South Africa's 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic.

KICK IT GOING

U.S. looking to build on opening rout, nab spot in knockout stage

By BRIAN LEWIS

SEATTLE — As big as the U.S. national team's World Cup opening win was, it merely provided a chance — a golden opportunity to be soccer's golden generation.

Now they must cash in and earn it.

A victory Friday against Australia — one they might have to pull off with Christian Pulisic sidelined — would guarantee a spot in knockout play and the U.S. would lead the group going into its group-play finale with Turkey. Winning the group would provide an easier path for a deep World Cup run that could change the sport in this country.

"We're starting to see in the U.S ... the kind of support and fandom we see in Europe," U.S. manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "The U.S. is starting to realize the importance, well, the power of soccer on society. We're starting to see in America what we see as a society in Spain, Argentina and Brazil. But it is still very young here in the U.S. Think about the possibility for a child watching the World Cup to say he wants to play soccer, and now in a culture that embraces that.

"It's an important starting point for people who want this sport to grow. Our soccer players on the U.S. team are creating a role for that now, and are fundamental. ... They have 26 heroes with the U.S. team that will affect the youth here in the U.S. with their performance in this World Cup and the future of football here. We can change the future of this sport. The other day you saw how super the fanbase is in basketball in the NBA Finals with the Knicks. We can do the same with football. We have to continue to play well and bring attention to this sport."

Friday
UNITED STATES vs. AUSTRALIA
in Seattle
Group D
3 p.m.
Fox

Pochettino — an Argentine answering in Spanish — was hired to bring the U.S. to new levels. He watched 2 million people turn out to celebrate the Knicks on Thursday and is acutely aware of how his own team has captured fans and raised the bar.

Now they must clear the new one.

"Depends how far we come," fullback Sergiño Dest said. "If we continue to play like [we did] against Paraguay, it can.

"We're still all hungry. It's the beginning. We had a great game against Paraguay, but we want more. ... So, we are all hungry to show all the opponents in the group and the world what we've got. That's what we're going to do [Friday]."

The U.S. comes into Friday's clash at loud Lumen Field with three points in Group D, level on points with physical Australia but one ahead on goal differential. With head-to-head the first tiebreaker, a U.S. win would clinch the group, and even a draw would keep them safely atop the standings entering Game 3 vs. Turkey.

Many have called the 4-1 rout of Paraguay last week among the most impressive U.S. performances in memory. The victory raised the bar, providing an opportunity to convert fans and inspire the next generation.

But only if they execute, which means winning Friday.

"Yeah, we're all aware of it. We have social media, we constantly have the TV on, watching other games and naturally on Fox Sports they're talking about the U.S.," said Cristian Roldan. "But we're grounded. We understand it was just one game. What excites me is that the entire nation is behind us. They enjoyed watching us play.

"What we want to do is inspire and motivate the next generation. And with performances like Paraguay, we're going to have up-and-coming stars coming through. But, we have to build off it. And that's the truth. We can't just talk about it; we have to show out against Australia."

That won't be easy against a rugged Australia team that beat Turkey 2-0. They can defend and counter ruthlessly with speedy Watford winger Nestory Irankunda.

The U.S. survived a physical 2-1 win over the Socceroos on Oct. 14 that saw Pulisic knocked out of the game. Now he's hurt again, day to day with a left calf injury.

"He's evolving," said Pochettino. "He's much better from Friday. We'll see.

"At the moment, we think if he's not available for [Friday], he'll be available for the next game. He's doing a massive effort trying to be ready."

brian.lewis@nypost.com

CALF BAD: Christian Pulisic, trying to get ready for Friday's game despite a strained calf, does some light work earlier this week. Getty Images

Pulisic status remains murky

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — For all the optimism around Christian Pulisic's status in the aftermath of his left calf injury last Friday, things are coming down to the wire for his status against Australia.

"He's evolving," manager Mauricio Pochettino said at his news conference Thursday. "He's much better from Friday. We'll see.

"I think at the moment, we think if he's not available for tomorrow, he'll be available for the next game. He's doing a massive effort trying to be ready. I think for every player that loves his country, it's an amazing opportunity to enjoy and help the team win games. When this type of thing happens, always it's painful, but I think Christian is strong, with a great mentality, and doing a fantastic effort to try to be ready."

Pulisic, a few hours prior, had once again done a modified training session, and wasn't with the rest of the team during the portion of training open to media viewing. Pochettino said he would meet with the medical staff Thursday night.

Pochettino declined to say what his plan would be if Pulisic can't go against the Socceroos.

"I will tell tomorrow if that is the situation," the 54-year-old said. "At the moment, we are evaluating all the possibilities just in case. And then we will decide when we have the confirmation in one or another direction tonight."

The options for Pochettino would range from doing what he did in the second half against Paraguay —

PARTY TIME: Folarin Balogun (20) and Weston McKennie celebrate during the United States' 4-1 win over Paraguay last week. Sergiño Dest (far left) and Co. will look to keep it going Friday against Australia.
Getty Images (2)

as kickoff nears

moving Malik Tillman to Pulisic's spot while Sebastian Berhalter takes over a midfield pivot — to playing any of Gio Reyna, Alex Zendejas, Brenden Aaronson or even Tim Weah in the left attacking midfield position usually occupied by No. 10.

The messaging around Pulisic's status has changed over the last couple of days, with players going from saying the superstar would surely be available to hedging.

"As far as recovery, I don't really know," Weston McKennie said. "To be fair, I'm more just the energy guy. Either way, just trying to give good spirits and hopefully he can be there tomorrow. I know he really wants to be, and he's doing everything that he can, and the staff is doing everything that they can as well. But that's also another question that's better to ask him rather than me. I'm in my own la-la land."

When another question about Pulisic was asked, McKennie said, "You guys love asking about other people."

esears@nypost.com

MATCHUPS

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — There's been a perception among the pundit class that Australia represents an easy opponent for the U.S. men's national team.

That is far from the reality.

Australia, just like the USMNT, can clinch a spot atop Group D on Friday. The U.S. needs a win and a Paraguay win or tie against Turkey later in the evening; Australia needs a win and a Turkey win or tie.

With the U.S. riding a 4-1 win over Paraguay in its opener, and having beaten Australia in a friendly back in October, the Americans are certainly the favorites Friday, but the match will be far from simple.

The Post breaks down the matchup between the U.S. and Australia:

WHEN THE U.S. HAS THE BALL

The most revealing moment in the lead-up to this match came Thursday when Sergiño Dest was asked about the best USMNT players in one-on-one situations, aside from himself.

"I think Christian is a really good one-on-one player," Dest said. "It depends. Let me stay with Christian."

This is both true and particularly important against Australia, given the 5-4-1, low-block setup in which the Socceroos will operate out of possession. The most obvious way to beat that configuration is to get the ball out wide in one-on-one situations and have the skill to dribble past defenders — in other words, the thing that Pulisic, whose injury situation hangs over this game, excels at. Right now, though, it's unclear whether the USMNT will have Pulisic, with manager Mauricio Pochettino saying at his press conference Thursday that he doesn't yet know whether his best player can go.

With or without Pulisic, the USMNT will realistically have a lot of the ball in this game. The possession stats from Australia's opener against Turkey were ridiculous — per FIFA's data, the Turks had 63 percent possession, led the shot count 30-9, had 130 line breaks to 54 and kept Australia in a low block for 56 percent of the time it was out of possession. Australia won that game 2-0, though, in part because its keeper, Patrick Beach, who surprisingly started over Mathew Ryan, made a terrific eight saves and in part because the defense in front of him was excellent. All three of Australia's center backs — Alessandro Circati, Harry Souttar and Cameron Burgess — are 6-foot-3 or taller, with Souttar at 6-6. Aerial duels, an area in which the USMNT already doesn't excel up front, seem like a losing battle here.

Paraguay also let the USMNT play in possession but this will be different. Australia plays deeper, it figures to be more physical and it has leaned heavily into its underdog status. If Pulisic can't go, or is hampered in some way, the U.S. figures to be far more reliant on Dest to make things happen along the right side, and on Malik Tillman — who played in Pulisic's left attacking midfield spot once Pulisic came off against Paraguay.

Patrick Beach

Getty Images

WHEN AUSTRALIA HAS THE BALL

You figure there won't be much extended buildup from the Socceroos in this game, but what's scary is how fast they can get on the counterattack. Their first goal against Turkey, a long ball from Paul Okon-Engstler to Nestory Irankunda that the latter turned into a brilliant finish, is an excellent example of how quickly Australia can make something happen.

The secret is out about Irankunda after his brilliant performance against Turkey; the 20-year-old is immensely talented on the ball and can always make something happen. Striker Mohamed Touré isn't far behind. Wingback Jordy Bos and midfielder Connor Metcalfe are worth watching out for, and the height Australia has at the back makes it a threat on set pieces.

The USMNT has set up aggressively when it has the ball, and the transition phase after turnovers will be absolutely crucial. Australia looks to play in behind and go forward fast. For Tim Ream, Chris Richards and Tyler Adams, that'll likely mean a lot of responsibility, and Adams will have to navigate playing on a yellow card.

One thing we never saw in the Turkey game is how Australia responds when playing from behind. Obviously, that would demand a little more aggression as opposed to bunkering in like the Socceroos did in that game. If there's more extended buildup, Australia's midfield overload can be dangerous, creating space for its wingbacks, and its 5-4-1 can become more of a 3-4-3.

INTANGIBLES

The expectation for the crowd in Seattle is no less than the loudest building in U.S. Soccer history. Given the city's soccer culture, this ticket being the cheapest of any of the three group games, the game falling on a holiday and Lumen Field's acoustics, it seems a reasonable proposition.

Australia does have some good us-against-the-world energy, using comments from American pundits such as Mike Grella, who called the game a "layup" for the USMNT, as fuel. It used the same thing to good effect against Turkey after Turkey's captain, Hakan Çalhanoglu, dismissed Australia as a team with less talent and quality than the Turks. Unlike the U.S. with Adams, no Australians will come into the game with a yellow card.

PREDICTION

A 3-1 USMNT win that looks tighter than the score suggests.

Jalen gives shade to critics

By JARED SCHWARTZ

This felt like the moment Jalen Brunson finally exhaled.

When he finally broke character, even slightly. When he used a non-response as a response.

"There's a lot of people that have a lot of negative stuff to say," Brunson said at City Hall during the Knicks championship parade. "There's a lot of people who have a lot of opinions. But when you prove them wrong, you don't have to say s--t to them."

KNICKS NOTES

One of those people is Becky Hammon, who in 2023 said Brunson would never be a "1A" star or a player capable of being the best on a title team.

There are plenty of others. National talking heads across the country criticized the Knicks decision to aggressively pursue Brunson in free agency as an envisioned franchise cornerstone. Entering the league, his underwhelming measurables led to him being a second-round pick. Almost nobody predicted his rise.

Finally, Brunson used a non-clapback Thursday as his form of a clapback.

"Nah," Brunson said, "they don't deserve it."

He also added: "I want to say thank you to Jim Dolan and the front office for believing in a kid no one else would."

➤ One Knicks assistant has caught the eye of at least one other team. **Chris Jent** is a candidate for Trail Blazers head coach, NBA insider **Jake Fischer** reported Thursday. Jent just completed his first season with the Knicks as an associate head coach. He was responsible for running the offense.

After Game 5 of the Finals, coach **Mike Brown** raved about Jent: "I am surprised he has not gotten an interview. He won the Summer League championship this past summer. ... He's been around for a long time. You guys, somebody needs to give him an interview, because he will help your team win at the highest level."

DOES IT HAVE TO END?

Not players, not fans, no one wanted to leave joyous celebration

Mike Vaccaro

BY THE end, after Alicia Keys had brought down the house and helped raise the Knicks together one last time, this time to dance to "Empire State of Mind," a fine New York morning and afternoon were finally winding down. Nobody yelled, "Last call," but the sentiment was plain:

You don't have to go home. But you can't stay here.

That was right. That fit. In so many ways, this felt like the last high school party before everyone scatters off to the wind: to college, to the service, to the workforce. The streets of lower Manhattan had started to fill before the sun even rose, which is what happens when you wait 80 years for a celebration like this.

Before the captain, Jalen Brunson, could summarize it all in three simple words:

"We did it!"

It was good to take a snapshot with your eyes then, if not with your iPhone — all of them gathered on the stage at City Hall, together, all of them, one more time.

And maybe for the last time.

The principles will all be back by the time school starts again next fall, that's a virtual lock, the boldface names who were responsible for most of the numbers on the tens of thousands of jerseys among the masses: 11 for Brunson, 3 for Josh Hart, 32 for Karl-Anthony Towns, 8 for OG Anunoby. No big-game hunting is required when you've just walked off the Canyon of Heroes.

But in the NBA of 2026, it's almost impossible to run everything back, and it will be difficult for the Knicks. Teams will covet Mitch Robinson. Landry Shamet has spent his whole NBA career wondering if his release papers are coming. It would be foolish of them not to see what's out there, and not to better their situations if they can. Not everyone is in the position to do what Brunson did a few years ago. Brunson would be the first to say so.

That was always going to be true, not only because James Dolan made the curious choice to explain why existing on the second apron of the salary cap is a perilous place for a team to exist. Maybe it wasn't the best timing to make that clear on the eve of Basketball Woodstock, but it's still a hard truth.

Chris Jent, one of Mike Brown's most trusted consiglieri, is reportedly in the mix for the Portland job. You never know what external opportunities might shake up the deep matrix of support staff. So this was likely it, the last time we'll ever see the entirety of the 2026 world champion Knicks together, until maybe the 20-year reunion in 2046.

No champion ever really runs it back, though, not anymore. For the longest time it looked like the 1998 Yankees, winners of 125 games, might do just that with the one exception of Tim Raines. Then, just before spring training, David Wells, Graeme Lloyd and Homer Bush departed, too, in exchange for Roger Clemens.

It's not like it was in the old days. Willis Reed slept fitfully the night of May 8-9, 1970, the Carbocaine coursing through his bloodstream to kill the pain of his bum thigh giving him some night visions, the pain that returned once the drugs wore off sharp and miserable. So he was alarmed when the doorbell rang in his apartment in Rego Park. Reed stumbled to answer.

It was Red Holzman and Marv Albert. The three of them had committed to make a slew of shopping-center appearances across Queens

and Long Island weeks earlier, and it really didn't matter that there had always been the possibility that they'd won — or lost — Game 7 of the NBA Finals the night before. Players liked — and needed — the $100 a pop they'd pocket. Reed got in the car.

Players don't need to do that now. They can pay the rent more easily than that, but sometimes that means making hard choices, saying difficult goodbyes. We'll see how all of that plays out in the weeks to come, but it sure seemed like the Knicks on Thursday afternoon took a cue from their fans. You'll remember how hardly any of the 19,812 who'd been at the Garden for Game 4 wanted to leave, almost 45 full minutes after Anunoby's tip?

They knew — were rooting, actually — that this could be the last basketball game at MSG until October, and they didn't want to leave the season just yet. Turns out, they were right. Thursday, the Knicks lingered onstage, knowing that once they walked off, the 2026 world champion Knicks would officially belong to yesterday, and to scrapbooks.

They wanted to stay planted in today as long as they'd be allowed. No need to rush goodbye. Not this day. Not yet.

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PARTY CITY: Jalen Brunson hoists the Larry O'Brien Trophy for fans to see at City Hall after Thursday's championship parade (inset) up the Canyon of Heroes. The celebration continued as members of the team spoke to fans on a stage in front of the building. Everyone — from the team to the fans and everyone in between — wanted to bask in the glory as long as they could, writes Post columnist Mike Vaccaro.

Getty Images; Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

If Knicks dodge second apron, repeat tricky

By JARED SCHWARTZ

While everyone was still basking in the present, Knicks owner James Dolan was really the only one to look ahead to the future.

"We're gonna keep working to bring you even better basketball," Dolan said at City Hall during the Knicks championship parade Thursday. "Although it's hard to imagine that we get much better than this. But we will, right fellas?"

That vision could be complicated by his own sentiment, though.

One day prior to the parade, Dolan suggested that he might not be willing to do what would likely be necessary to either run this same roster back or improve on it.

"There's certain things in the NBA that you'd have to be suicidal to do. One of them is the second apron. Cannot go into the second apron," Dolan said. "I'll write as big of a check as possible, but I can't write a check that goes into the second apron."

Now, just because Dolan said the Knicks won't go into the second apron doesn't mean that it is doctrine. Perhaps president Leon Rose and cap guru Brock Aller have alternative ideas or are able to convince Dolan otherwise.

The Knicks' willingness to go into the second apron will likely dictate the next steps for this roster.

At the moment, they have eight players definitely under contract next year — Jalen Brunson, Karl-Anthony Towns, OG Anunoby, Mikal Bridges, Josh Hart, Miles McBride, Tyler Kolek and Pacôme Dadiet. They also have the No. 24 pick in the draft (along with Nos. 31 and 55 in the second round), and Jose Alvarado has a $4.5 million player option.

If they do in fact use that No. 24 pick and Alvarado opts in, those 10 players on the books would bring them to roughly $209 million in salary obligations — around $13 million under the projected second apron.

Mitchell Robinson, Landry Shamet and Jordan Clarkson are all unrestricted free agents. Mohamed Diawara is a restricted free agent. If the Knicks want to stay under the second apron, they can fill out their roster with veteran minimum contracts.

There will be enough room to bring back Diawara, and Clarkson, who was on a minimum contract this year, can probably be secured for the same deal again. For Robinson or Shamet, however, it will depend on what they can get elsewhere on the open market. Re-signing both and staying under the second apron is not feasible.

Being in the second apron triggers several restrictive penalties — teams cannot sign players to the midlevel exception, they cannot trade first-round picks that are seven or more years in the future and cannot use trade exceptions from any prior year. And if teams stay in the second apron for three out of five years, their first-round picks move to the end of the first round.

There are a couple of moves that could free up a bit more money for the Knicks. Maybe Alvarado declines his player option, instead signing a multiyear contract that is backloaded so that he is not on the books for much money next year. Maybe the Knicks trade their first-round pick — the No. 24 pick in the draft is slotted to make roughly $3.4 million his rookie year. Maybe someone in the core restructures their contract.

Whatever happens, it all comes faster than most realize. The draft is just a few days away. Free agency — the negotiation window, at least — starts at the end of the month. Thursday's parade marked the official end of this season. On to the next.

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STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"The McBee Dynasty: Real American Cowboys" (Bravo) is still a good example that reality shows featuring men can be as full of drama as those featuring women.

OUR CALL: STREAM IT

Paul Andrews/Bravo

WHAT TO WATCH

In Hallmark Channel's **"Texas Two-Step," Heather Hemmens** (left) and **Brendan Penny** (far left) deliver sizzling chemistry as Olivia and Luke, childhood sweethearts who reunite after 20 years when the former returns to Texas to help her Aunt Ruby (played by a lovable BJ Harrison) save her country music bar. Head over to Hallmark+ to stream the movie now.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

DON'T READ INTO IT

'I Will Find You' star Logan Browning explains why she didn't read the Harlan Coben book

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

Logan Browning (above) stars as FBI agent Sarah Greer in Netflix's "I Will Find You" with Chi McBride (left).

Tamara Beckwith/NY Post

Logan Browning, of **"Dear White People"** and **"Bratz: The Movie"** fame, is treading into uncharted territory in Netflix's new mystery miniseries **"I Will Find You,"** taking on her first-ever law enforcement role as FBI agent Sarah Greer.

"This was new for me. This was a new lane," Browning told DECIDER when she stopped by our studio ahead of the show's release.

Based on Harlan Coben's novel of the same name, "I Will Find You" follows David Burroughs (Sam Worthington), a man who is serving a life sentence for the murder of his young son. When his ex-sister-in-law Rachel Mills (Britt Lower) provides information proving David's son might still be alive, he breaks out of prison and they work together to clear his name, all while the FBI is trailing close behind with direct orders to send David, now a fugitive, back to prison.

Browning plays Sarah Greer, a member of the FBI's Fugitive Task Force who works on a team with her father, Max Williams (played by Chi McBride). While these characters could have been written as one-dimensional agents with a sole purpose to capture and lock up David Burroughs, Sarah and Max are instead written with a layered backstory, much of which revolves around Max's absence through Sarah's childhood, deepening her desire to work closely with her dad as an adult.

"It's the dream, and it means that when I work with directors, I get to have really interesting conversations," Browning said of her character's backstory, part of which is what helps Sarah realize that David might be innocent after all. While Sarah might be doing her job when it comes to chasing down a fugitive, Browning knew how important it was to put her character's desire for truth above all else, especially against the backdrop of America's flawed prison system.

"There's a moment when Sarah and Max are in the car, and she asks him, 'Have you ever been chasing someone you thought might be innocent?'" Browning recalled. "That's such a good question for us to be asking, especially when you consider the prison system in America, and how and why and who is incarcerated for what reasons."

"It's funny, as Sarah, I believe my job is not just what's on the page. My job is to find the truth," she continued. "My job is to be a warrior for justice, and that's how I feel as Logan, too. The truth is the truth, and I would always go for that."

Like any dedicated actress, Browning did a lot of research going into this role, and made many calls to her close friend who works as an FBI agent IRL.

"I was asking, 'What do you think of this?' She's like, 'Okay, now listen, it's the movies, right? They might not be doing things the way I do it, but this is how I would do it,'" Browning said. "I would ask her, 'When you're leaving the house to go to someone's house, what are you bringing in the car? Do you have snacks? Do you have water? What's in your trunk? What do you pack? Do you wear sneakers? Do you wear dress shoes?' I was so curious."

The one thing Browning didn't do? Read Coben's book on which the series is based. But she had a perfectly reasonable explanation as to why.

"I'm going to be honest. I didn't read the book," she admitted. "I didn't read the book, because everyone kept saying that my character was so different from the book. Maybe now I'll do it. But I really wanted to honor what was on the page in front of me."

Tubi

TRENDING NOW

Tubi dropped the trailer for **"Summer's Last Resort,"** which is set to premiere on July 3. The comedy follows Summer (**Violet McGraw**, left), who hatches a plan to break up her mother (**Sophia Bush**, center) and her new boyfriend (**Jerry O'Connell**, far left)—who is also Summer's vice principal—after he joins them on her birthday vacation.

WHAT'S NEW

ON APPLE TV
"**Sugar**," the Season 2 premiere.

ON SHUDDER
"**The Voices of Our Mother**," a new horror movie (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

COMEDY

Rush Hour 2: 4 p.m. on TNT. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker. Carter and Lee head to Hong Kong for a vacation, but become embroiled in a counterfeit money scam.

ROMANCE

Coming to America: 5:30 p.m. on VH1. Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall. An extremely pampered African prince travels to Queens, NY to find a wife.

SPORT

2026 FIFA World Cup: 5:45 p.m. on WNYW 5. Morocco at Scotland from Boston Stadium. Morocco stunned Brazil with a 1-1 draw in the Group C opener.

Friday June 19, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Sheriff Country: The Hunting Party (R)		Fire Country: Best Mom in the World (R)		Boston Blue: Patrol (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics
4 WNBC	4	4	4	(1:30) 2026 U.S. Open Golf Champ: Round 2 Live.		Access Hollywood	America's Got Talent: Auditions 3: A fire-shooting all-female quartet, a pair of comedic illusionists. (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(5:45) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Morocco at Scotland from Boston Stadium. Live.			(8:15) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Haiti at Brazil from Philadelphia Stadium. Live.					The 10 O'Clock News	Street Soldiers	Good Night New York
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune: Howard and Eisen (R)		20/20: Investigative journalists report on various news stories from around the world. (R)				News	(11:35) Kimmel Live (R)
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Politics Unusual	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9	Politics Unusual	Chicago Fire: I am the Apocalypse		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Chicago Fire: Forgiving, Relentless, Unconditional	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	PIX on Politics	Seinfeld: Invitations	The Big Bang Theory	AVP Volleyball: Las Vegas, NV Live.				PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: Invitations
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Washington Week	Firing Line	American Experience: George H.W. Bush, Part 1 (R)				Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Inspector George Gently			The Brokenwood Mysteries			(10:02) The Puzzle Lady		BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	The Civil	Made In New York Talks			Papa Ray's	Inside Pow	Artists Den Reprise		Short Film	NYU Journ	Cinema
31 WPXN	31	3	531	S.W.A.T.	Pregame	WNBA Basketball Live.				Game Break	WNBA Basketball Live.			
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Hermanas Un Amo		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026 Directo.			Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Haiti vs Brazil. Directo.					Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026 Directo.		
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Defending DJ		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Crime in P	Crime in Progress		Crime in Progress		Crime in Progress		(10:01) Crime in Progress		(11:04) Crime in Progress	
AMC	54	43	231	Captain America: First Avenger (2011)			(8:15) Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014, Action) Chris Evans. PG-13 ★★★						The Equalizer 2 (2018) R	
BBCAM	71	101	189	Law & Ordr	Law & Order: Wager		Law & Order: Sanctuary		Law & Order: Nurture		Law & Order: Doubles		Law & Order: Old Friends	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins (2008) ★★				Barbershop (2002, Comedy) Ice Cube. PG-13 ★★½						What Men
BRAVO	18	44	185	(5:30) Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)			The Gilgo Beach Killer		The Gilgo Beach Killer: House Secrets			The Gilgo Beach Killer: The Good Wife		
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		The Source with Kaitlan		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Step Brothers (2008) ★★★	
DISC	66	27	120	Woodsmen	The Last Woodsmen (R)		Deadliest Catch		(9:01) Last Woodsmen		(10:02) Deadliest Catch		(11:01) Deadliest Catch	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Soul (2020, Adventure) Jamie Foxx. ★★★			Toy Story 4 (2019, Family) Tom Hanks.			ZOMBIES	ZOMBIES	ZOMBIES	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Men (R)	Sully (2016)
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	NBA Tip-Off		ESPN Films				ESPN Films		Sports	Inside the
ESPN2	29	35	74	Banana Bal	Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Indianapolis Clowns Live.				Athletes Unlimited Softball: Spark vs. Cascade Live.				NFL Live	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Wall Street	Roundtable	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Food Network's Top 10		Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	Cinderella (2015, Fantasy) Lily James.			The Little Mermaid (2023, Fantasy) Halle Bailey. PG ★★★						The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	The Pokers	NASCAR Truck Series: Race At San Diego Live.					Travis	TMZ Sports	FIFA World	FIFA World Cup Live.	
FX	10	40	53	The Jungle Book (2016) Neel Sethi. ★★★			Jungle Cruise (2021, Adventure) Dwayne Johnson. PG-13 ★★★						Miracle (2004) PG ★★★	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Next Stop, Christmas (2021)			Single on the 25th (2025, Romance) Lyndsy Fonseca.				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Zillow Wild	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	(6:00) Triumph: Jesse Owens (R)			The Clash of Nations: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling				(10:05) Jim Thorpe: Lit By Lightning (R)			
ID	23	171	123	Homicide	Homicide City		People Magazine		Girls Wanted		Girls Wanted		Girls Wanted	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Dead Man Talking		NCIS: Missing		NCIS: Split Decision		NCIS: A Weak Link		(11:03) NCIS: Reveille	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	FIFA 2026	USL Soccer Live.				MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	USL Soccer Replay.			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(12:00) FanDuel Racing					Team Boxing League: LA Elite at Las Vegas Hustle Live.					MSG Summer
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★					Pitch Perfect 2 (2015, Comedy) Anna Kendrick. PG-13 ★★★				
NATGEO	65	162	121	Best World	Blaine Do Not Attempt (R)		Blaine Do Not Attempt (R)		Blaine Do Not Attempt (R)		Attempt (R)	Attempt (R)	Attempt (R)	Attempt (R)
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Despicable Me 2 (2013, Comedy) Steve Carell. ★★★½				Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Big Bang Theory: Proton	
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) Belle	Belle Collective		Belle Collective		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Heart & Hustle: Houston		Belle Collective	
PARMT	36	56	54	Dutton (R)	(7:04) Dutton Ranch (R)		Dutton Ranch: Den of Sin		Dutton Ranch: Den of Sin		The Departed (2006, Crime) Leonardo DiCaprio. ★★★★			
SNY	26	60	77	Minor League Baseball: Norfolk Tides at Syracuse Mets. Live.						Yearbook	Mets Specials		Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Red (2010, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★½					Red 2 (2013, Action) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★					Red (2010)
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (2024) Michael Keaton. PG-13				We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. R			
TCM	82	41	230	(5:45) Suspicion (1941) NR		MGM Parade	Zou Zou (1934) Josephine Baker. ★★½			(9:45) Song of Freedom (1947, Drama)			Raisin in the Sun (1961)	
TLC	52	28	139	(6:00) 90 Day Fiancé: Something Old			90 Day Fiancé: More to Love: When Two				90 Day	90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day (R)
TNT	3	37	51	(6:00) Rush Hour 3 (2007, Comedy) ★★½			I, Robot (2004, Science Fiction) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★					Godzilla vs. Kong (2021) PG-13 ★★★		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	Spider-Man	Everything	Everything	WWE Friday Night SmackDown: from T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, Mo.. Live.						Everything	Everything
VH1	19	52	217	(5:30) Coming to America (1988) R ★★★			Good Burger (1997, Food) Kenan Thompson. PG ★★½				Scary Movie (2000, Comedy) Shawn Wayans. R ★★½			
WE	59	42	149	Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise. ★★★			Love After Lockup: Double Release			This is Poly: Big Swing		Love After Lockup: Double Release		
YES	53	89	76	Pregame	MLB Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at New York Yankees. Live.						Postgame	YanksExtra	Talkin'	Yankees
HBO	511	301	400	(5:39) Sinners (2025, Drama) R			Earth Wind & Fire (R)				Real Time with		Bring Me the Beauties (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	(6:28) The Family (2013, Comedy) R ★★½			(8:20) Broken City (2013, Thriller) Mark Wahlberg. ★★½				(10:09) The Post (2018, Drama) Meryl Streep. ★★★			
MGM Plus	595		395	Wonder (2017, Drama) Julia Roberts.			Rudy (1993, Drama) Sean Astin. PG ★★★½				(9:55) Finding Neverland (2004, Drama)			Button ★★★½
PARSHO	551	321	365	Faster (2010, Action) Dwayne Johnson.			The Chi: White Widow		The Dark Tower (2017) Idris Elba. ★★½			Molly's Game (2017, Drama) Idris Elba.		

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LET'S TALK ABOUT A REPEAT

KEEPING TEAM INTACT WON'T BE EASY, AS MITCH, SHAMET COULD LEAVE / PAGES 88-89

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026
NEW YORK POST
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LOOKING UP!

Juan Soto launches a first-inning homer to jump-start the Mets' 6-4 win over the Phillies. Sparked by two Soto homers, it was the second straight big effort from the lineup, which could get Francisco Lindor back as early as next week.

PUMA / PAGES 80-81

Soto leads another outburst as Mets top Phils — with Lindor return on horizon

DOVAL DOOMS BOMBERS

PAGES 82-83

IN A PERFECT WORLD

U.S. LOOKS TO RIDE GOOD VIBES FROM CUP OPENER INTO AUSSIE SHOWDOWN

PAGES 87-85

EPIC DAY: Knicks fans at the parade included a couple getting married (right) and begging forgiveness for Elmo, who tweeted for "both teams to have fun," betraying the Knicks.

Spectrum News NY1

WORK < WITNESS HISTORY
GO KNICKS!!!

Forgive me PLEASE

BRILLIANT THING 'N THE KNICKS
MARKNICKSKA HARGITAY

STARRING ROLES ON B'WAY

By BRIDGET REILLY

It was celebrity row on wheels Thursday.

The famous Knicks loyalists certainly weren't going to miss the championship parade through the Canyon of Heroes to celebrate the Knicks' first NBA championship since 1973.

A Jalen Brunson favorite, Mariska Hargitay made an appearance on the Finals MVP's float with her son, August, who was wearing a blue shirt that read "Marknickska Hargitay."

The "Law & Order: SVU" star was seen dancing and waving to fans while on the parade route.

Hargitay arrived at the parade with Brunson's family, as the two have grown close over the past few seasons.

Also on Brunson's float was Spike Lee, who has been a staple fan of the franchise, owning season tickets since 1985.

Tracy Morgan, wearing an Anthony Mason jersey, and Ben Stiller were also on the scene in downtown Manhattan.

Stiller wore a Karl-Anthony Towns shirt and Knicks hat and he could be seen filming, as usual, with his iPhone, for his documentary with A24 and HBO on the Knicks' title run.

Timothée Chalamet, who was an integral part of the Knicks' postgame celebrations in San Antonio, was on a float with his dad during the parade as well.

Walt "Clyde" Frazier was seen leading the way among the Knicks alums in attendance.

He was seen driving a car with his name emblazoned on the side of it.

Patrick Ewing greeted fans before hopping on a car of his own while Carmelo Anthony was waving to fans on a float.

Martha Stewart was also spotted among the crazed Knicks fans and she got a picture with Brunson. Actor John Turturro was seen with his family to celebrate the Knicks title.

Other faces that popped up were Jon Stewart, Fat Joe, Edie Falco, Steve Schirripa and Matthew Modine.

Erik Pendzich/Shutterstock

LET’S HEAR IT

Stefan Bondy

AP

OH, BABY! Jalen Brunson with his wife Ali and their daughter Jordyn, whose one-of-a-kind shirt celebrates her dad winning MVP of the NBA Finals.

Erik Pendzich/ Shutterstock

Big Apple’s all together & unified by joy

Alicia Keys, a product of Hell’s Kitchen, was singing her New York anthem. You know the words, “Let’s hear it for Newww Yorrrk.” There’s not a stage in the world Keys can’t own, but it felt especially poignant at City Hall after being introduced by Mike Breen, the famous voice from Yonkers.

At some point, Keys left her piano and took the performance to the section of Knicks players, where Jose Alvarado, a Brooklyn product, danced and sang with the most emotion.

The rendition culminated a long and hectic celebration of the 2026 NBA champions while underscoring the real theme of Thursday’s ceremony: New York City, for the few weeks that spanned an improbable playoff run until Keys shut down City Hall, was alive, thrilled, united.

The boroughs won together, they hugged each other after Game 5 in San Antonio, then they gathered together Thursday for what was one of the largest parades in the city’s history.

“So often, when this city comes together, it is because we are forced to by a moment of tragedy or adversity,” Mayor Mamdani said in his rousing speech outside of City Hall. “What a gift it is to be brought together by pure, unfiltered joy.”

Team’s first parade

After 53 years without a title for the Knicks, the potential of this celebration felt limitless. It was certainly unknown. There had never been a parade for the Knicks in the franchise’s 80-year history. Back when Clyde Frazier and Willis Reed won in the 1970s, the city’s mayor, John Lindsay, cut back on ticker-tape parades for financial reasons.

So Thursday brought the unprecedented. It was the most unifying sports team in NYC, and arguably its most popular, rolling down the Canyon of Heroes with a sea of blue T-shirts and jerseys on the sidewalks. Young and agile fans climbed a sanitation truck to get a glimpse of the triumphant Knicks. Others scaled a bus shelter. Several light poles served as ladders. The thirst for celebrating the Knicks wouldn’t have been quenched even if they traveled another two miles.

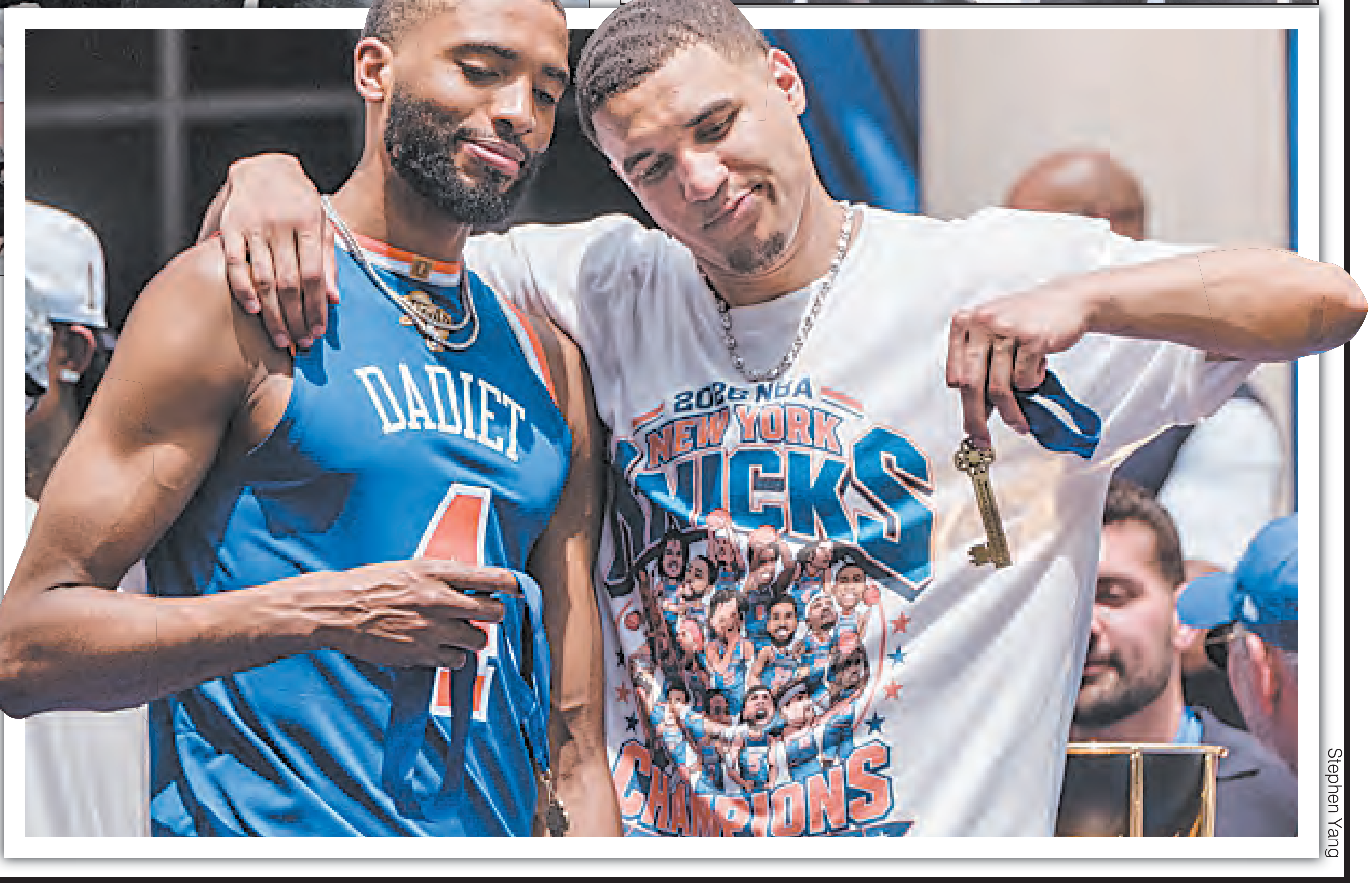
Jalen Brunson, who never has to pay for another meal in New York, took the mic at City Hall and channeled the heart of the playoff run. His Knicks were the underdogs who were doubted and dismissed until they raised the trophy. “There’s a lot of people who have a lot of negative stuff to say,” Brunson said. “There’s a lot of people who have their own opinions. But when you prove them wrong, you don’t have to say s--t to them. They don’t deserve it.”

New York City, meanwhile, got what it deserved Thursday. A huge event to match its enormous support. The wait was 53 long years for a Knicks championship and a reason to remember our roots as the hotbed of basketball, ending flawlessly with six words Alicia Keys: “Let’s hear it for Newww Yorrrk.”

Getty Images

FOR THE CITY

Stephen Yang



Stephen Yang

Reuters

WOOOO! Sights and sounds from Thursday's party for the NBA champion Knicks on the steps of City Hall included big man Mitchell Robinson hollering to the sky in jubilation; the team all together with trophies held high; singer Alicia Keys belting out her anthemic hit "Empire State of Mind"; and Kevin McCullar Jr. and Mikal Bridges with the keys to the city (clockwise from left).